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BIRTHS.

On the 24th February, at Kobe, the wife of W. A. BRADLEY, of a daughter.

On the 2nd March, at 5, Lyceum Villas, Kowloon, the wife of the Rev. J. H. FRANCE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 14th January, at H.B.M. Consulate, Tientsin, by L. C. Hopkins, Consul-General, FREDERICK HUGH WILLIAMS, to SARAH (SALLY) BOAD.

DEATHS.

On the 22nd February, at 155, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, ARTHUR ALEXANDER LADISLAUS GRAF BU LER-HARMHAUSEN CLONEBOUGH, aged 58 years.

On the 24th February, at "The Farm," Ridings, Derbyshire, England, ANN ELLEN (NELLIE), wife of C. R. CHAMBERLAIN, a mother of MARGARET LOCKWOOD JONES, Shanghai.

On the 26th February, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, JOHN DUNLOP THOMPSON WILSON, aged 24 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived per s.s. *Preussen* on the 3rd inst.; and the French Mail of the 5th February is expected to arrive per s.s. *Armand Behic* sometime to day, the 7th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Count Von Wa'derssee is dead.

Siam has issued the usual proclamation of neutrality in regard to the war between Russia and Japan.

The *Temps* states that 2,000 Colonial infantry have been ordered to be in readiness to sail for Indo-China.

Russia has withdrawn from the S. Louis Exposition, no doubt owing to difficulties of transport of exhibits.

It is considered in Berlin that Russia cannot maintain the fiction of the independence and neutrality of Corea after the publication of the alliance between Japan and Corea.

Reuter's correspondent at Seoul wires that the Russians are hastily constructing a fortress and extensive earthworks at Antung to obstruct the passage of the Yalu by the Japanese.

It is reported on reliable authority at Suez that Russian warships, anchored in the Gulf, have seized the British steamers *Ethrick Dale* and *Frankby* and the Norwegian *Mathilda*, laden with coal.

An official report to the Director-General of Chinese Railways states that the Manchurian Railway is strongly guarded; at every mile, approximately, there is a high watch-tower, with thirty Cossacks.

In addition to Lieut.-Col. Sir William Nicholson and Col. James Haldane, a dozen officers of all arms are being sent to watch the Japanese operations at various points, under the direction of Lieut.-Col. Sir William Nicholson.

Fresh orders have been sent from St. Petersburg to Admiral Virenius, for the Russian squadron to remain in the Red Sea to watch for warships and capture contrabanders. A Russian cruiser has arrived at Ponta Delgada, in the Azores.

Japan has intimated her willingness to allow the Russian Chemulpo prisoners, now en route to Ceylon for detention by the British Government, to return to Russia *ex parole*. Great Britain is now corresponding with Russia with a view to such an arrangement.

Japan has issued a reply to the Russian Notes of the 24th February, in which she justifies the rupture, especially owing to Russia's ever increasing military preparations. The Japanese announcement on the 6th February that she would take independent action naturally meant open hostilities.

M. Muravieff, the Russian Minister of Justice, in delivering the Venezuelan judgement, as president of the Hague tribunal, referred disparagingly to Japanese pretensions. The Japanese Minister objected to such remarks from an Arbitration Tribunal and has requested instructions from Tokyo.

A general order from the military commander of Port Arthur intimates that the Japanese consider a landing at, and seizure, of Port Arthur a question of national honour. The commander declares he will never give an order to surrender, and appeals to the garrison and inhabitants to fight to the death in defence of the fortress.

Viscount Yoshikawa has been appointed Japanese Minister for Home Affairs.

A rebellion has broken out at Chinning-chou, Yunnan, against the indemnity tax. A mob has looted the sub-prefect's *Yamen*. Chinning or Tinning-chou is a town 26 miles south-east of Yunnan-fu, being situated at the other end of the large lake on the north bank of which the provincial capital itself stands. It is little known to Europeans.

The *Universal Gazette* hears that a body of Russian troops has come to blows with a Chinese force belonging to General Ma Yu-kun's command, outside Sha haikwan and on the Hsinmintun Railway, the Russians being the aggressors. The same paper further states that General Ma Yu-kun has himself gone to the scene of disturbance with reinforcements.

Messrs. McGregor Brothers and Gow informed us on the 2nd inst. that they had received the following telegram from their Singapore agent:—A fire on board the *Glenturret* broke out in the main hold, and was not extinguished until much damage was done to the cargo by fire and water. She must discharge cargo. Further particulars will be telegraphed as soon as possible.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—It may be mentioned as a curious commentary on the decision of our military authorities to discontinue as far as possible the use of the sword, that the Japanese officers and non-commissioned officers and some of the picked troops have been supplied with a modern adaptation of the terrible two-handed sword which the *samurai* of old wielded with such effect.

A Court Martial on three Japanese, disguised as coolies, who were arrested in an attempt to blow up the Sungari bridge on the 21st ult, has revealed that the supposed coolies were a Japanese colonel of engineers, a Naval torpedo-lieutenant, and a lieutenant of sappers, all belonging to the General Staff. The three officers were condemned to death and immediately hanged from the Sungari bridge.

A Russian Note to the Powers declares that Japan's proceedings are an open violation of the laws governing the mutual relations of civilised nations, and after quoting what it describes as various flagrant breaches of international law, considers it is the duty of Russia to lodge a protest to the Powers, convinced that they will agree to Russia's attitude. Russia declares as invalid all orders and declarations arising from Japan's illegal assumption of power in Corea.

It is officially notified that Admiral Alexieff has telegraphed that the Japanese re-attacked Port Arthur at 2.45 on the morning of the 24th ult. with torpedo-boats, and endeavoured to block the harbour by sinking four steamers filled with combustibles. The *Retvisan* supported the batteries and destroyed two steamers near the entrance. The fire against the torpedo-boats was maintained until dawn, and daylight revealed four steamers destroyed and eight torpedo-boats steaming towards the Japanese fleet. The crews of the steamers took to the boats and some were drowned. The entrance to the harbour is clear. The enemy left in two divisions, pursued by three Russian cruisers, which returned later. There were no Russian losses.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 29th February.)

That the Japanese possessed newer and more suitable fighting ships, those out in the Far East possessed of expert knowledge have steadily maintained; that the crews were under better discipline, and the officers in all that concerned their duty afloat were far ahead of their probable Russian adversaries the same experts, in the face of European authorities to the contrary, also steadily maintained. That the Japanese would fight for their country to the last, and were second to none in courage and promptitude was generally acknowledged. That they should possess over and above all these qualifications a power of concentration and self control, never to be found except in conjunction with the highest mental and intellectual power, was more than we could naturally expect; and therefore did not look for. The two Japanese attacks on Port Arthur of the 8th and 13th February deserve all the encomiums we have passed; but in addition to this, and in view of the markedly original, and hitherto unprecedented nature of the attack, it is not too much to say that the Japanese tactics at Port Arthur open out a distinctly new chapter in naval warfare. The lesson to be impressed on the generation is, however, the old one of the valley of Elah, when GOLIATH of Gath, whose spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, was notwithstanding, or rather in consequence of the weight of his offensive armour, put *hors de combat* at the first stroke. DAVID's sling and stone, the prototype of the Japanese torpedo-boat, was a far more effective weapon in the hands of the skilled slinger than the overweighted and unhandy spear carried by his opponent. Having said so much for the weapons, we must not neglect the men. Had the weapons been reversed, and GOLIATH the slinger, is there any reason to doubt that the result would have been the same? We need not descant on the other similarities in the two stories; the boastful brag of GOLIATH, who had afflicted the minds of all beholders by the mere bigness of his body, and the plain, simple faith of the other in the goodness of his cause—and, it must not be forgotten, the skill of the trained slinger.

It is not, however, so much to point out the circumstances under which the skirmish—for technically, in the absence of any definite result save the damage done to certain of the Russian ships, the action at Port Arthur was but a skirmish—proved so disastrous to Russian arms, and Russian prestige, as to indicate its probable effect on the future of the campaign, that we write these lines. There is little doubt that the first idea of the Russians was that the war was to be, in the main, on their side offensive; but the circumstance of having the two ports Vladivostock and Port Arthur endangered at the outset somewhat disconcerted their operations. The Russian commander was evidently unsettled in his mind as to which to make his basis of operations, and divided his fleet between the two. Seeing at the last moment the error, he attempted to unite the two squadrons, but the Japanese at once interposed their fleet between the two separated divisions. As an offensive post Port Arthur, as long as the Power holding it has command of the sea, must continue to be of supreme importance in any Power in hostility with Japan; and this was evidently thoroughly understood by the Japanese commanders, who conceived the bold design of so far weakening its resources as to

reduce its offensive power. In this the Japanese admiral was more successful evidently than he had any reason to expect. The Russian admiral also saw this very evident position, and acting on his knowledge set his fleet in motion, apparently in the hope of meeting one of the Japanese squadrons, and being able to inflict on it serious damage, or even to capture or put out of action so many ships as to give a preponderance to the Russian Port Arthur squadron. Not seeing any apparent signs of the enemy, he, probably in order to be in time for the intended festivities on the evening of the 8th February, returned to port, but did not take all his ships into harbour. As we have before remarked, no nation on earth possesses a more thoroughly organised intelligence department than the Japanese. The commander of the squadron evidently was able to penetrate the Russian plan of action, but he did more; he had obtained by some means a copy of the Russian private code of signals; and apparently had come to learn of the intended entertainment. He was not slow to turn his information to the best advantage, and herein was plainly shown the advantage that DAVID had over GOLIATH. In a word, while GOLIATH was pluming himself on the superiority of his armour, the other had made up his mind to action, and discarding the weapons offered by SAUL, armed himself with a solitary sling and staff. Even DAVID seems to have had too much self confidence, for having succeeded in killing his opponent, he had not the means to complete the victory by cutting off his head, and had to depend on the enemy's sword for the purpose. It was hardly to be expected that a second attack on Port Arthur would have been equally advantageous. The Japanese did, however, succeed in still further weakening the enemy; and, seeing that nothing more remained possible, wisely retired. So ended the first act of a very serious drama.

What followed is not less interesting, and though there has as yet resulted no actual fighting, the stage is plainly being cleared for the second act; and we can begin to form some forecast of its aims. We have before spoken of the want of initiative in the Russian character. This we showed was conspicuously shown in her diplomacy, which was a mere repetition of certain well-worn devices; they had been eminently successful before, and, thought Russia, that was a sufficiently good reason for trying them again. To a certain extent they proved successful again in Europe. Even Great Britain at first was deceived into believing in the omnipotence of Russia; and left her an open door to establish herself in Port Arthur, the fruitful source of the present trouble.

But not less devoid of originality is Russia's military history. Two hundred years ago Sweden was acknowledged to be the most powerful of European states. Its King, CHARLES XII., declared war against PETER the Great, and there is no doubt had the campaign been carried out with any ordinary degree of prudence that the present position of affairs would have been reversed and Russia remained a third-rate Power. Not content with the victory that was in his hands, CHARLES, who though a soldier was no general, attempted a mad movement on the Ukraine, and left his flank exposed. When he had in PETER's opinion gone far enough the latter attacked him, destroyed his army, and forced CHARLES with a few followers to take refuge in Turkey. Sweden never recovered the blow. A hundred years later NAPOLEON made war

equally successfully on Russia. Russia however, adopted the same tactics as before; she permitted NAPOLEON to actually occupy Moscow, and then came her revenge. The world looked on in wonder at the gigantic sacrifices Russia had made, and shook its head. The result was the ruin of NAPOLEON, and his schemes of universal dominion. Now of course the scene has shifted, and it is Russia who dreams the dream. Conscious that she was marked out as the next victim for Russia's ambition, Japan has declared war; but here the resemblance ends. Japan certainly has no object of invading Russia; she seeks no aggrandisement of power or territory; her aims are terminated by her desire to be let alone. The giant was preparing with his weaver's beam to strike his small adversary to the ground; but the youth, taking advantage of the momentary neglect of his guard, administered a painful and damaging blow. Prudence no less than ordinary self-respect would have recommended silence; but Russia, like an underbred cur, at once commenced to howl, much to the disgust of the onlookers, who from the previous GOLIATH-like boasts of the giant, at least expected a good fight. But Russia has been even more foolish; for in her rage she has exposed her own methods; and it is noteworthy that they are the same identically as those which twice before, under very different circumstances, and when she was a comparatively insignificant Power, stood her indeed in good stead. Russia's greed for territory led her in 1860 to take advantage of China's weakness to seize in no very creditable manner the sea-coast of Manchuria, and there, proud of her achievement, she established the apparent stronghold of Vladivostock, which she has ever since maintained as a threat against her neighbours on the Pacific. For a time Vladivostock indeed looked formidable, but with the advance of the offensive power of modern artillery turned out little better than a delusion. Vladivostock in fact is an ideal fortress—for the attacking force; and probably no stronghold in the world offers such a temptation for bombardment by a strong naval Power. Fortunately Russia was the very last of the Powers to find this out, and no friend was kind enough to point it out to her till she was unwise enough to proclaim it to the world. Temporarily checked at Port Arthur, and deprived of the immediate means of carrying on from there an aggressive policy, she has no more originality than to fall back on the old expedient of seeking to draw the new enemy to commit the mistake of her former invaders. We reveal now no secrets, for Japan has shown how much better than the other she comprehends the possibilities of modern warfare. Russia has declared her intention of leaving both Port Arthur and Vladivostock and retiring into the heart of the Manchurian wilds, in the full expectation that Japan will repeat the mistakes of her predecessors. But is Japan likely to be caught by such very antiquated strategy? We opine that nothing would suit Japan's immediate policy better than such a move. Japan has not entered on the war with the object of territorial expansion, whatever may be the final result, and probably nothing would suit her better at the moment. At all events, the interest of the onlookers is at the moment centred on what is to happen on the opening of Vladivostock; and we feel fairly well assured that the next act of the drama will be enacted on the stage of Vladivostock, and its ultimate aim will be the acquirement of the command of the line from the coast to Harbin.

(Daily Press, 3rd March.)

The steps which Russia is taking at the present moment with regard to what may be called the wider range of the war—the points, that is, where it affects other nations than herself and Japan—are being closely watched by all concerned. Two telegrams which we publish to-day throw a good deal of light on Russia's policy. In the first place, all British subjects have been expelled from Vladivostok, says our Tientsin correspondent. Vladivostok can hardly be considered a desirable place for a neutral to live in at the present moment, and British subjects are not loth to leave, we imagine. The word "expelled," however, has an unpleasant ring, and particulars of the treatment accorded to Mr. SCHWABE and the other British residents will be anxiously awaited. Numerous acts of violence by Russians against other people in various parts of the North have been reported—notably the assault on Mr. MILLER, United States Consul at Newchwang—and it is plain that the temper of the Russian soldiery at least is not to be trusted. The other point to which we wish to draw attention is the attitude which Russia is taking up with regard to the question of contraband of war. She has declared coal, rice, and food-stuffs to be contraband. The question of coal is the most important. Russian warships in the Gulf of Suez have already made several seizures of steamers carrying coal, and though all, up to the case of the *Grirel*, reported by REUTER, seem to have been released, yet the fact of the vessels' seizure and detention must do much harm to trade. It is noteworthy that by declaring, in the present war, that coal will be considered by her contraband, Russia is making a new departure. Hitherto she has refused to do so, and indeed in 1884, at the time of the West African Conference, announced that she would categorically refuse her consent to any articles in any treaty, convention, or instrument whatever which would imply such recognition of coal as contraband. The peculiarly awkward position in which she finds herself in the war with Japan has caused Russia to make an entire change of front on the coal question. It appears that she intends to use such of her fleet as remains in the Gulf of Suez to stop all supplies of coal coming out to Japan from British home ports. The coal-carrying vessels have, of course, the option of coming out to Japan via the Cape, thereby losing considerable time, but avoiding the risk of meeting Russian warships unless there be any such in the Atlantic at present. It remains to be seen how Russia's seizure of coal-carrying vessels will be received in Great Britain. It is inevitable that difficulties shall arise over the question of "contraband of war" in every war. We learnt that to our cost in South Africa.

THE COMING LAND CAMPAIGN.

(Daily Press 4th March.)

By degrees the probable course of the summer's campaign is beginning to develop in Corea. Admirably chosen as the fortresses at Port Arthur and Vladivostok are for an enterprising enemy with command of the sea, and always capable of acting on the offensive, they are both more or less of a trap when the holder has to act on the defensive. In the first place, they are each at the extremity of Russia's advance, and supplies can only be obtained from the rear, and from distant sources; and in the second, both are so placed as to be subject to bombardment, without being able to inflict any very serious injury in return on the enemy.

The enormous distance of both fortresses from their bases of supply, and the imperfect means both have of obtaining reinforcements are, however, their great source of weakness. As long as the holder of each remained in command of the sea, these disadvantages were, of course, limited, and looking at the two as merely *points d'appui* for further advance, both were admirably selected. As it was the general opinion, not only in Russia itself, but throughout Europe, that Russia would continue to have the advantage at sea, it was considered that an early attack on Japan would mark the opening of the campaign; and though it was generally recognised that the Japanese would offer a very determined and formidable defence, it was unlikely that in the long run their resources would stand the wear and tear of a prolonged war.

It speaks volumes for the military tactics of the Japanese that within twenty-four hours after the first shot was fired all these confident forecasts were falsified; and, so far from the war on their side being defensive, within the first two days the *venue* was entirely changed, and the Japanese had not only the choice of beginning, but had actually forced the enemy to fight on the defensive—in a war, too, where all the danger and damage lay with the defence. For the moment, at least, Japan is mistress of the sea, and is thus in the position in which Russia hoped to find herself, of being able unmolested to land her forces at any part of the Korean or Manchurian coasts she might select. This seems to be the true explanation of the apparently quixotic action of the Japanese fleet before Port Arthur on the 22nd and 23rd ultimo. It is plainly an object with the Japanese military authorities to compel the Russian generals to keep as large a force as possible at Port Arthur to be ready for any eventuality that may occur, this meaning that Port Arthur, being at the extremity of their long line of communication, to supply a garrison there absorbs the whole capacity of the line, and any breach in the continuity would compel the break-up or surrender of the entire force. We can only surmise, in the absence of any definite information, which the Japanese wisely keep to themselves, the object of the last demonstration at Port Arthur. As the Japanese are at the moment masters of the sea, it seems quixotic to seek to block the entrance against themselves; of course the explanation may be that the fleet is required in the Sea of Japan, and they do not wish in the case of the absence of the ships that the Russian flotilla should be able to interfere with their operations in the Yalu gulf. The Japanese have apparently been landing a large force at Chemulpo. It is apparently their intention, as soon as the entrance to the harbour is free of ice, to occupy in force Broughton's Bay. These two armies will be prepared to act in support of one another, whether an advance is to be made into the Sungari valley by Wiju or Maerh-shan. More probably neither of these will be the definite object of the campaign, which will more probably be Vladivostok itself; and this will most likely be attacked from Castries Bay, so as to threaten Niuguta. Harbin, the vital point of Russian activity in the Far East, is of course the eventual goal, and towards it a successful army would have thus three lines of approach; one by Wiju and Moukden; one by Maerh-shan and Kirin; and the third by Hwench'un and Niuguta. To carry out, or even initiate, so ambitious a scheme requires, of course, absolute command of the sea, and this would explain the reiterated attacks on Port Arthur. So long as the Japanese fleet can inflict more damage

than it suffers, every skirmish, however slight the immediate result, will be a Japanese gain, and will ease the difficulty of a shore campaign. Altogether, even at this early stage of operations, there is evidence that the Japanese are working on a definite and well-planned scheme of operations; in which, moreover, there is a perfect understanding between Army and Navy. As the ports in the more northerly part of the Sea of Japan are still closed with ice, the Japanese have been taking advantage of the enforced inactivity in the field to hurry on their preparations at home, and this is doubtless the reason of the wonderful reticence that has marked their operations hitherto. The nation is working as one man, and secrets of state are secrets to each individual from Emperor to shoe-black. However plain may be the general objective, success is never likely to be endangered by premature disclosures.

COREA'S AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN.

(Daily Press, 1st March.)

About the end of the third week of January last—the news was first published to the world on the 23rd of that month—Corea proclaimed that, in event of war between Japan and Russia, she would remain neutral. It was announced very shortly after this that Russia did not approve of the declaration; yet, almost at the same time, it was reported that it was due to the machinations of a secret association of Belgians, French, and Russians in communication with some of the higher Korean officials that the Seoul Government had taken the step. On the 8th February the Russian warship *Koreetz*, coming out of Chemulpo harbour, fired what is alleged to have been the first shot in the war at a Japanese squadron then approaching Chemulpo. On the next day the Japanese vessels destroyed the *Koreetz* and *Varyag*, and proceeded to land troops at Chemulpo. Refusing to recognise the neutrality of Corea, the Japanese proceeded to occupy Seoul, which was in their hands about the 11th ultimo. Whether simultaneously they effected a landing in any other part of Corea is unknown. It seems more than probable that they did so at Fusan at least, in order to keep control of the unfinished Fusan-Seoul railway line; and the large number of transports known to have been collected at Nagasaki and elsewhere have not yet been accounted for. All means of telegraphic communication (except Russian land lines to Europe) having been in Japanese hands for some time, it is easy to understand why we should have heard nothing of what has been happening in Southern and Eastern Corea. Anyhow, it is certain that the Korean capital has been in Japan's possession for nearly twenty days, that she has been pouring troops in, while her fleet has securely tied up the Russian squadron at Port Arthur, and that her forces have been steadily advancing on Ping-yang, in Phyeng-an, the north-western-most province of Corea. Now it appears, by our Kobe telegram which we publish to-day, that on the 23rd February Corea signed a treaty of alliance with Japan, apparently, as our correspondent says, ranging her with Japan as a belligerent and rendering invalid her previous declaration of neutrality. Perhaps the precise significance of this alliance is not great. Seoul and the Korean Court being in Japanese custody, Corea could but fall in with Japan's wishes. For Corea all that the agreement with Japan means is that Corea will give up the hopeless task of attempting to maintain

neutrality between the two Powers preparing to battle in her territory, neither of whom in the slightest degree intended to respect her neutrality. In event of Russian success in the war she might fall a prey to Russia (with the consent of Europe and the United States); but, had she remained neutral, Russian success would still have meant Russia's predominance in, and gradual absorption of, Korea. On the other hand, Korea's alliance with Japan promises to her, should Japan win, a larger measure of autonomy under Japanese guidance than she could otherwise expect. In yielding to compulsion, Korea has done herself at least no harm.

Assured by the new Protocol of Corea's aid, Japan has pushed forward rapidly, and on Sunday last had reached the town of Ping-yang or Phyeong-yang, a town some 120 to 130 miles north-north-west of Seoul, in the province known as Phyeong-an. Here, though the place is 100 miles on the Korean side of the Yalu River, Russian cavalry scouts were met and driven back by the Japanese infantry. The outposts of the hostile armies are therefore in close touch in North-west Corea, and a heavy engagement cannot be far off. The relative strength of the opposing forces is, of course, absolutely unknown to us. Russia's military movements since the outbreak of war have been lost in entire obscurity, and Japan's only slightly less so. Wiju, on the east bank of the Yalu estuary, is in Russian hands, but there is the Japanese fleet to threaten Russia's flank, with part of its strength, if only Port Arthur can be "bottled up," as it does not seem to be yet. Last week's news of Japan's move at Possiet Bay has not been confirmed. A distance of considerably more than 300 miles separates Possiet Bay from the scene of the coming collision, so that the two movements, if harmonious, would be distinct. A mystery surrounds the proceedings of the four strong Russian cruisers which sunk a small Japanese steamer off the Hokkaido on the 11th February. After being reported damaged by a Japanese torpedo-squadron, they were said to have retired to Vladivostok; but there has been no certainty about them. If they are at Vladivostok, it is highly improbable that the Japanese could land at Possiet Bay, not 60 miles away, without a nival engagement. Accounts of the progress of events in the extreme North must be received with extreme caution. And, indeed, the same might almost be said of those regarding events on the other side of Corea; only it is impossible that all the latter could be hidden. We have the advantage of reading some of the Japanese official despatches, which seem on the whole fairly free from exaggeration, a remark which cannot be made of Admiral ALEXIEFF's despatches. The fable about the four sunken Japanese battleships must make us very chary of crediting Russian official reports. Russia is certainly very consistent in her adoption of the worse rule in her contest with Japan.

"An Eyewitness" published in Shanghai the following account of the outrage on the U. S. Consul at New-wang:—On the 12th February as Mr. Miller was returning from the gunboat *Helena*, he observed a Cossack, who had arrested a small, weak-looking Norwegian, and was ill-treating the man; and when the Consul went up to find out the cause and details the Cossack struck him with his whip, and afterwards the prisoner, hurrying him along to the Police Station, where he was at once released, after Consul Miller had seen the Administrator Grosse. The popular indignation was intense, and the British Consul was also taking steps to move in the matter. The Russian authorities were greatly demoralised and no one knew what might happen.

RUSSIA'S UNPREPAREDNESS.

(Daily Press, 27th February.)

That Russia, like the engineer, has been hoist with her own petard in the struggle on which she is embarked, is pretty certain. This is shown by casual remarks gleaned from Russian and Continental papers, and by the want of preparedness in which the commencement of the outbreak of hostilities found her. In short, Russia was, as usual, playing the game which she has played so long and so successfully with other Powers. But in playing this game with an Oriental Power she forgot to make allowances, and has come to grief in consequence. She bluffed so high that, when the bluff failed, she was unable to retreat without a disastrous loss of prestige. Some of the home papers received by last mail confirm this view of the position. A telegram from Vienna to the *Sunday Special* says:—"It appears that up to a week ago the Russian diplomatists were absolutely certain that they could at any moment master the Korean question by making some trifling concession to the Japanese. But since Tuesday they are undeceived. They have discovered that Japan is determined on getting all her points, if necessary by force of arms. The effect of this awakening has been electric. Consternation best describes the feeling of the high Russian officialdom, which knows that Russia is caught, when just most inadequately prepared, in a struggle that will be pregnant with incalculable possibilities. No doubt everything will be attempted to get out of the impasse, but the fear here is that it is too late." That fear was soon justified. The Japanese grew tired at length of Muscovite procrastination and pretence, and determined to force the issue. The Russians have themselves only to thank for their folly and marvellous want of caution. Practically the two Powers had been in a state of war for some days—each making the most strenuous preparations to be able to strike the first blow—before the Japanese attacked Port Arthur and destroyed a portion of the Russian fleet. It is almost inconceivable that a great military Power could have been caught napping in such a matter. It is stated that the officers of the garrison were gaily footing it at a ball when the attack was delivered, and the "sound of revelry by night" was again interrupted by the "cannon's opening roar." If this really should be the case, it will show a blind carelessness and recklessness which even Anglo-Saxons would hardly be guilty of. Where were the night-patrols? Where the search-lights sweeping the harbour? Where the torpedo-nets? Evidently no precautions were taken, and the Russian officers were as much inclined to undervalue the enemy as British forces have ever done either in South Africa or elsewhere. For this want of knowledge and miscalculation there was surely no excuse. The Japanese proved first in their campaign against China and subsequently during the Boxer troubles, that in attention to detail and the plan of campaign they had little to learn from any Power, and that they would not easily be led into a trap. But Russia had seen without heeding, had heard without remembering, the result being that she by the practice of her peculiar diplomacy virtually compelled Japan, who had already announced the irreducible minimum of her demands, to take the initiative and "let slip the dogs of war." And having thus precipitated a terrible conflict, for which her aggressive policy is alone responsible, Russia whines and whimpers like a beaten bully about Japanese treachery and bad faith!

CHINESE LABOUR FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

(Daily Press, 2nd March.)

The last mail papers from home contain the full text of the telegrams which passed between the Government of New Zealand and the Colonial Office in London with regard to the proposed introduction of Chinese labour in South Africa. New Zealand, as we already knew, protested without avail against the measure for which the Transvaal mine-owners have been so eager and which they have now the satisfaction of seeing passed; for telegrams told us more than a week ago that Parliament has sanctioned the Bill and that the Transvaal may now proceed with the introduction of Chinese. It is interesting to see the reasons given by New Zealand, through Lord RANFURLY, the Governor, and by the Hon. A. LYTTLETON on behalf of the Colonial Office. New Zealand "after years' experience" (we quote the telegram) agreed prohibition of Chinese immigration imperative "in the best interests of British communities, especially those with, or likely to have, responsible Government . . . Great dangers would be introduced by Chinese influx, however stringent conditions of introduction and employment may be . . . In South Africa such introduction may create vested interests on the part of employers, making it extremely difficult to terminate practice once sanctioned." The New Zealand Government concluded with an earnest appeal for consideration, stating finally that they thought the immediate advantages of the introduction of Chinese would be dearly purchased by the influx of a foreign element, "dangerous while unassimilated, and not to be assimilated without prejudice to our progress, institutions, and patriotic ideals." Mr. LYTTLETON, in reply, fully recognised the right of all self-governing Colonies to express their opinion on so important a question, but stated that "His Majesty's Government have declared that their policy is to treat the Transvaal as though it were a self-governing Colony, unless a distinct Imperial interest is concerned." He went on to say that it must not be forgotten that there is much that is abnormal in the economic condition of the Transvaal which may call for abnormal measures, and the Government, consistently with the policy which they have laid down, could not refuse to accede to the wishes of one part of the Empire on a matter which it regarded as of paramount importance to its well-being, in deference to representations from another part of the Empire not directly interested. Nevertheless, the Government felt assured that the Transvaal would give to the opinion of any self-governing colony such weight as its own exceptional circumstances permitted. Stripped of its phraseology, the Colonial Office's reply to New Zealand is that the Transvaal itself must have the determining voice in a matter which affects its own welfare, if it does not at the same time affect the Imperial interests. We do not see that the home authorities could well have answered otherwise, if they wished to adhere to the declaration quoted by Mr. LYTTLETON above. It is open for the New Zealand Government and all supporting the same cause to argue that the matter is one affecting Imperial interest. This, however, we hardly think can be made out. We have never advocated the introduction of Chinese labour into South Africa, not believing it to promise benefits sufficient to compensate for the many disadvantages. But we do not think that the Empire is actually menaced by such a measure. It

will be a very expensive experiment for the Transvaal, and we do not anticipate its success. The mine-owners, however, have got their way, and the experiment is to be made. As far as Hongkong is concerned, the step must interest us not a little, for all the Chinese labour exported to South Africa must pass through this port, and so money will be brought to the Colony.

A RELIEF FUND FOR JAPAN.

(Daily Press 3rd March.)

As a desire is manifested in the Colony to follow the example set in other foreign communities further North and contribute to a fund intended for the relief of distress in Japan caused by the war, it will doubtless be useful to the gentlemen who, we understand, intend to start the fund if we briefly state the views which obtain in Japan as to the purposes to which such funds might be devoted. In Yokohama a very influential Committee has been formed, representative of all nationalities, the Society being called "The Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents' Association for Relief of Sufferers from the War." This Committee has considered the claims of the Japanese Red Cross Society and it was pointed out that the Society was a large and wealthy body, never likely to be in want of funds, inasmuch as contributions will be forthcoming from all parts of the world in addition to those from Japanese sympathisers. Moreover, the object of the Red Cross Society is to aid the wounded among the military and naval men during the war, and then only. The Governor of the prefecture fully agreed with this view, and suggested the claims of other Japanese societies which would deal with the distress consequent on the war, and no doubt grants will be made to these societies from time to time from the general fund. The fund which is being raised among the foreign community of Kobe will apparently be distributed in a similar manner, and among the Japanese themselves there is a splendid response to appeals in the newspapers for contributions in aid of the relief of the families of men at the front and the children who are made orphans by the war. In a few days a total sum of 17,000 yen was subscribed by the readers of an Osaka paper, but if the war is a protracted one, as it seems likely to be, a very large fund will be necessary to cope with the distress likely to be occasioned in Japan. Every little help from sympathisers with the gallant little nation in this momentous crisis in her history is therefore certain to be welcomed and highly appreciated. Shanghai is contributing to a Fund started by the *North-China Daily News*, and if any among our readers are desirous of showing their sympathy in the same practical way, we should be pleased to receive contributions and to hand them over to a local committee if one is formed, or to forward the money direct to the Societies in Japan organised to disburse funds of this character.

The attempt to take a *plébiscite* in Shanghai on the fiscal question was a failure. Voting began on the 10th instant, and the boxes were opened last Saturday afternoon. The result was:

For fiscal reform	156
Against	11

Majority in favour of reform... ..145
The *N.-C. Daily News* comments:—There might be some reason for taking a vote like this in a British Colony like Hongkong; but there was, as the result shows, no reason for taking it in an International Settlement.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 29th February.)

Racing has fairly succeeded in eclipsing everything else in interest in Hongkong during the past week, and it would have taken the most sensational news from the North to have distracted most people's attention from the events in the Happy Valley. Not everyone, of course, cares much about the actual racing; but the holiday and the general turn-out could not fail to attract residents from their offices and homes to the pretty race-course which we are fortunate enough to possess in this Island. The first day's enjoyment was a little marred by the prevailing dust-clouds, but afterwards the Jockey Club took the hint and laid the dust by the application of water. Beautiful weather favoured all four days of the meeting, and the ladies no doubt rejoiced duly in the opportunity of showing their costumes without fear of rain spoiling them. The actual racing provided very good sport, and the accidents were few and not serious, except in the case of poor Dandy, whose owners are to be commiserated on the loss of a good little horse. There was a nasty-looking fall in the Lusitano Cup on the first day, but happily no great harm was done. The Off Day mishap, too, fortunately was not so bad as it might have been for the plucky rider of Rex. Mr. "Buxey" carried off first honours easily in the whole meeting, but there was enough distribution of awards to satisfy most. Hongkong has on the whole good reason to congratulate itself on its 1904 meeting.

A correspondent, by the way, suggests that it would be interesting to publish a brief history of the origin of racing in Hongkong and of our first race meeting—an event, as he says, which few here can recall. "The race-books," he continues, "printed every year only go back to 1870, and the information supplied is meagre. But I know of at least one person who remembers race-meetings held in the early sixties." I wonder if anyone is likely to come forward to supply the information asked for.

It is rumoured that a public fund is to be started in Hongkong this week in aid of the Japanese affected by the present war. I do not know whether the money is to be raised for assistance to the wounded or as a kind of widows and orphans' relief-fund. Both are deserving objects, and it is to be hoped that a substantial sum will be raised. British residents should not require stirring up in the matter, and there will be a good opportunity for the local Chinese to show that the sympathy of Chinese toward Japan in the present struggle is more than skin-deep.

On many occasions the Police authorities have been appealed to in the *Daily Press* to adopt some regulations for the better ordering of traffic on the side-walks, and I am glad to see that an order has recently been issued calling upon all Chinese who are carrying baskets or poles to walk in the roadway and not on the footpaths. As the writer of the article on the subject in the *Daily Press* of the 8th inst. intimated, the Chinese coolie's hat is, equally with the baskets and poles, a nuisance on a crowded pavement beyond all expression vexatious, and the wearers of these inverted baskets ought to be subject to a like regulation, or be required to carry their hats in their hands, as nearly all the sidewalks in Hongkong are covered. Some remarks were also made by the writer on the subject of better regulations for vehicular traffic, and though the necessity certainly exists, I think the Police duties in this respect during the Race days were most efficiently discharged and the force is deserving of a word of commendation.

Some months ago the public were led to believe that the trams would be running in the Race week. I suppose the 1905 Race meeting must have been referred to, as there are no present indications of an early service of trams from the town to the Racecourse. However, I believe that this is no fault of the contractors.

The quaintness of Chinese shop-signs is a matter that often causes mirth with the European. One of the oddest shop-signs in the Colony is to be seen in a street in the west of the City. It is very ancient, and the legend carved on the wooden board is: "Dr. C— is a first rate hand for splicing broken legs.—John Tommy Tiltkin." Another shopkeeper in Wellington Street announces in bold letters that he can "paint and vanish," the absence of the "r" in the last word conveying a meaning which those who have had to do with Chinese contractors will appreciate. But it is not the Chinese firms alone who are distinguished by bad spelling. An eminent firm of lawyers housed in the Supreme Court have their sign displayed to the effect that they are "notaries public."

Hongkong has had a lively week, with the races, Kowloon sports, and the Dallas Company in full swing. This is the more remarkable as Hongkong is not the liveliest place in the East, as regards amusements. This week I hear there are some good things in store at the Theatre, and on Friday the Masonic Quadrille Club gives its final Ball of the season—a ball which is expected to be quite a big function. The past week was further enlivened by two big Chinese weddings, in one of which the procession took nearly fifteen minutes to pass a given point, the Chinese "music" causing consternation at night amongst the would-be sleepers in the neighbourhood of Wyndham Street. There was also a big Chinese funeral (the result of the Chinese New Year?), at which the professional mourners filled forty-six rickshaws. Music hath charms, but there is something especially charmless about the Chinese variety, and more so when it wakes the echoes at 1 o'clock in the morning.

Who is responsible for the preservation of the monument erected to the memory of the fallen heroes, who sacrificed their lives for their country, in order to make Hongkong what it is? Is it in order with the fitness of things that Chinese coolies—aye, and Chinese of a better class—should sit around the bae, smoking and throwing down cizarettes, fruit skins, and expectorating? A little attention to this, and a railing around the monument, would better become those responsible.

BANYAN.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

TIENTSIN, 25th Feb., 11.20 p.m.

The story of the loss of four Japanese battleships at Port Arthur on Wednesday last is discredited here. The Japanese fleet continues to command the Gulf of Pechili.

LONDON, 26th Feb., 10.50 a.m.

The Japanese have landed at Possiet Bay, south of Vladivostock, and have advanced to Hunchun, thirty miles inland. The troops are now marching on Kirin.

LONDON, 26th Feb. 10.50 a.m.

It is stated that 45 Russian warships leave the Baltic in June.

Kobe, 26th Feb., 12.5 p.m.

The S. Petersburg report of the sinking of four Japanese battleships at Port Arthur is wholly discredited in Japan. It appears, however, that the Japanese plan of attack on the 24th instant was frustrated by the defenders. One or two small vessels which the Japanese intended to use in blocking the harbour mouth were sunk by fire from the Russian forts before their purpose had been effected.

6.35 p.m.

The vessels sunk at Port Arthur were the transport-steamers *Winsen*, *Tenshin*, *Hokoku*, and *Bushin-maru*. They were scuttled purposely by the Japanese in order to block the entrance to the harbor. Their crews escaped.

Kobe, 28th Feb., 7.00 p.m.

A protocol ratifying an alliance between Japan and Corea was signed on the 23rd instant.

This convention apparently ranges Corea with Japan as a belligerent, and renders invalid Corea's declaration of neutrality last January.

Kobe, 29th Feb., noon.

It is officially stated that Russian scouts some distance to the north of Pingyang encountered a body of Japanese Infantry yesterday (Sunday) and were repulsed.

Tientsin, 1st March, 10. a.m.

In consequence of the denunciation in the *China Times* of Russian cruelties, the military authorities summoned Mr. John Cowen, editor of the paper, before them. He was ordered to give security for his behaviour, but refuses, and maintains his right to freedom of comment. His deportation is impending.

LONDON, 1st Mar., 10.55 a.m.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that the Japanese have announced their intention of bombarding Port Arthur to-day.

Admiral Stoessel in a speech at Port Arthur has declared that the place will never surrender.

Tientsin, 1st Mar., 10.33 p.m.

Mr. E. S. Schwabe, British Vice-Consul, and all British subjects have been expelled from Vladivostok and arrived at Tientsin. They state that the Russo-Chinese Bank at Vladivostok has suspended operations, and that all provisions in the town are at famine-prices.

Tientsin, 1st Mar., 10.33 p.m.

Port Arthur is being bombarded by the Japanese every alternate day, and the whole coast in Russian possession is effectively blockaded.

Desperate efforts have been made at Tientsin to transmit provisions to Port Arthur by the railway, but all have been fruitless.

Kobe, 4th March, 12.30 p.m.

On Wednesday night, the 2nd instant, some bombs were thrown into the residences of the Foreign Minister and of the Councillor of the Foreign Department at Seoul. The bombs, however, were weak, and their only effect was to damage the furniture slightly in the houses attacked. The outrage is attributed to the Peddlers' Guild, which opposed the signing of the Protocol between Japan and Corea.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL REPORT ON PORT ARTHUR.

Mr. Masauichi Nomura, Japanese Consul in Hongkong, on the 27th ult., forwarded to us copies of the following official telegrams, which he received that day:—

"Tokyo, 26th February, 4.20 p.m.—Shortly before daybreak on the 24th instant, our torpedo flotilla escorted three or four old merchant vessels to Port Arthur, where they were to be sunk for the purpose of blocking all ingress. The vessels were successfully scuttled and foundered in the pass. All the officers and crews were brought back safely. Although no official confirmation has been received from Admiral Togo, it is certain that our fleet sustained no damage."

"Tokyo, 27th February, 1.55 a.m.—According to a report received on the 26th instant from Vice-Admiral Kaminura, who is in command of a detached squadron, our torpedo flotilla, which accompanied the old steamers sent to block the pass at Port Arthur, reports that the *Hokoku-maru* was sunk just under the lighthouse to the left of the entrance of the port; the *Bushu-maru* tumbled down just outside of her. The *Tenshin-maru*, *Buyo-maru* and *Jinsen-maru* were sunk in like manner to the eastward of Laotian-shan and at the entrance. The crews

of these steamers all escaped in safety, and our destroyers and torpedo flotilla returned without having suffered any damage. This took place in the early morning of the 24th instant.

"On the same night, our fleet of destroyers were despatched to Port Arthur, Talienwan Bay, and Pigeon Bay in search of the enemy's ships, and an attack was made on the Russian vessels. On the morning of the 25th, our main fleet opened fire at a long range on the enemy's ships and forts at Port Arthur. The *Novik*, *Askold*, and *Boyarin* fled into the inner harbour shortly after midday. From this it would seem that we have not yet succeeded in blocking up the entrance completely. After the Russian fleet had retired our fleet advanced and attacked the inner harbour. A bombardment on the port and forts was kept up for fifteen minutes, and an explosion in the town, created by our shells, was witnessed. Our boats then withdrew.

"On the same day our fleet attacked a Russian destroyer and succeeded in disabling it near Kootienzan. In these engagements no damages were incurred by our vessels and no officers or men were injured. Further details are expected shortly in Admiral Togo's report."

THE TORPEDO ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

A Japanese naval officer has supplied the following account of the first attack at Port Arthur:—The torpedo destroyers parted with the squadrons under the command of Vice-Admiral Togo on the night of the 8th, at sea, some fifty miles this side of Port Arthur. The No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 flotillas proceeded to Port Arthur, and No. 4 and No. 5 flotillas to Dalny. The three flotillas soon arrived in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur and commenced a search for the enemy's fleet. The torpedo destroyers of the enemy were on picket duty, but the Japanese flotillas succeeded in passing them and getting inside their line, without exciting their suspicion. The Russian warships were stationed at almost the very spot where the Japanese flotillas were led to expect they would find them. The Japanese torpedo destroyers fired two torpedoes each, the No. 1 flotilla turning the left and the No. 2 and No. 3 to the right. The Japanese torpedo flotilla was determined to get as near the enemy as possible and destroy the largest vessels. The torpedoes were therefore fired at the largest ships of the enemy's fleet. The Japanese craft approached within 500 or 600 metres of the Russian ships and the officers were able to make out the moving figures on board the Russian ships. The torpedo discharged by the *Inadzu-ma* missed fire, and she therefore turned round and re-fired it. The Russian ships were panic-stricken as soon as the Japanese torpedoes were fired and opened a terrific fire on the destroyers with the aid of their search-lights. No shot struck the Japanese boats. The firing of the torpedoes ceased at 2 o'clock and the flotillas headed for the open sea. The enemy's torpedo destroyers were sighted on the way back, and the Japanese boats opened fire on them. They made no reply and the Japanese destroyers got away unmolested, joining the fleet at the same place where they parted from it several hours before. The forts seem to have opened fire on the Japanese destroyers, but if so they did no damage. Captain Asai was in command of No. 1 flotilla, Lieutenant Ishii of No. 2 and Lieutenant Tsuchiya of No. 3 flotilla. The flotillas, which were sent to Dalny, failed to discover any signs of the enemy there.

THE ACTION OUTSIDE PORT ARTHUR

Another naval officer describes the action as follows:—

The torpedo flotilla crept up close to the Russian fleet, successfully evading the Russian torpedo boats, and discharged their torpedoes at a short distance. Three torpedoes took effect, three Russian ships being struck. The ships, however, did not sink entirely. On the following morning the Japanese squadron steamed up to the attack. The *Chihaya*, *Tatsuta*, and others went close in, trying to entice the enemy's ships into the open sea. The Russians showed no wish to comply with the invitation. Failing to draw the enemy outside, the *Chitose* (flagship of Rear-Admiral Dewa) telegraphed to Vice-Admiral Togo (by wireless telegraphy) that the time was ripe for a general attack. The squadron thereupon passed out to the sea, leaving Round Island on the right, and proceeded in a single line towards Port Arthur.

Each ship opened fire as she came in front of the enemy's fleet. The *Novik* and three other ships of the enemy's fleet fought well, the work of the first-mentioned being the most creditable. Most of the enemy's fleet did not steam about, but remained stationary, like so many floating forts. The three damaged ships did not fire a single shot, and there seemed ground to believe that the damage done by the Japanese torpedoes on the previous night was fatal. The forts opened fire on the Japanese when the latter approached within 12,000 metres of the shore. The Japanese ships held their fire until they got within 7,500 metres. Throughout the action the Japanese fleet steamed at the rate of 15 knots and at one time went within 3,000 metres of the Russian ships. Only the port guns were used. After passing the fleet, the ships turned and sent in a hot fire from their stern guns, before steaming away. The exact loss to the enemy is unknown; but a warship of the *Pollara* type was seen to have a heavy list to port, and a shot from one 12-inch gun is known to have hit the *Bayan*. Two other Russian ships were seen to be badly damaged by the Japanese fire. The flagship *Mikasa* took the lead in the engagement, the *Asahi* coming next. The enemy's fire was concentrated on the *Mikasa*. The *Asahi* escaped without any damage. The firing of the Japanese ships was accurate and almost every shot told. Thirteen shots were fired from the stern 12-inch gun of the *Asahi*, each one taking effect. The *Iwate* was hit by a 10-inch shot from the *Novik*, and the *Fuji* was hit on her forward funnel. Lieut. Miura of the *Fuji* was killed while on the bridge by a shot from one of the Russian ships. Only a piece of his belt was left on the bridge. The Japanese squadron formed in battle array at 9.59, and the Russians opened fire at 11.30. The Japanese replied at 12.09, the engagement lasting forty minutes.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES AT HONGKONG.

The Italian cruiser *Elba* arrived at Hongkong about 2 p.m. on the 29th ult., having left Chemulpo on the 25th, experiencing a fine passage down the coast. It will be remembered that the *Elba* was one of the foreign warships that picked up some of the Russian sailors that blew up their vessels during the fight off Chemulpo between a Russian cruiser and gun-boat and a Japanese escorting squadron. The *Elba* has now 174 Russian sailors and eleven officers on board. Four of the former and one of the latter were slightly wounded. The officers are all from the gunboat *Varyay*, Midshipman Gutsuine having received a wound in the right leg. The names of the others are:—Lieut. Robert Berling, Chief Engineer Leikoff, Engineer Soldatoff, and Midshipmen Lahoda, Schilling, and Eyer. The officers of the *Elba* do not know how the Italian Government will dispose of the men.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL NEWS.

The Japanese Consul on the 24th ult. informed us that he had received the following two official telegrams:—

"Tokyo, 28th February, 12.10 a.m.—Admiral Togo, commander-in-chief of the main squadron, has forwarded the following official report with regard to the recent attack on Port Arthur:—Five merchant vessels were despatched with instructions to their crews to scuttle them in the entrance to the Russian port. On reaching the southern point of Laotian-shan, on the 24th inst. at 4 a.m., the first of these vessels, the *Tenshin-maru*, turned to the left and, after running for three miles under a violent fire from the enemy's forts, which inflicted serious damage, it was found necessary to beach her. The four other vessels steered off to the north-east. They were discovered by the enemy's search-lights and subjected to a violent cross-fire from the shore batteries. The engines of the *Bushu-maru* were put out of gear by a shell, and she was eventually scuttled near the *Tenshin-maru*. The *Buyo-maru* was riddled by shells and sunk before reaching the entrance. The *Hoko-maru* and *Jinsen-maru* proceeded at full speed into the entrance. The former sunk near Remorizan Point, and the latter on the opposite side of the passage. These vessels were blown up with explosives that had been prepared on board, their crews cheering as they witnessed them founder from the boats. These rowed away towards the Japanese torpedo flotilla, but, being discovered by the Russians thanks to the search-lights which

were sweeping the harbour, they were fired upon by the forts. In consequence, they rowed to a point of shelter, where they were under cover, and rejoined the destroyers about 3 p.m. the following afternoon, after rowing for several hours against a heavy sea and head-wind."

"Tokyo, 28th February, 8.20 p.m.—This morning, at about 9 a.m., a group of the enemy's cavalry made a demonstration and were encountered about half a mile to the north of Phyongyang. Our infantry opened fire and advanced to the attack, whereupon the Russians withdrew."

NORTHERN TELEGRAMS.

The principal telegrams in the Shanghai papers are as follows:—

"Tokyo, 22nd February.—It is reported that the Russians from the south of the Ussuri have gathered at Possiet and the coast, and that portion of them have already entered Seoul.

"It is officially announced that several hundred Russian cavalry have appeared in the vicinity of Anchyn, in North Phyong-an province (the north-west province of Corea), and the telegraphs north of Anchyn are interrupted. The city of Phyongyang is still safe."

"The Tokyo *Kokumin* ridicules the charge of treachery and cowardice made by the French Press against Japan, in reference to her procedure at the opening of hostilities, but believes that the Paris Government will adhere to its declaration of strict neutrality."—*N.-C. D. N.*

"Paris, 20th February.—It is stated in *S. Petersburg* that on the 19th, a Cossack picket captured a detachment of Japanese troops on Corean territory."—*Echo de Chine.*

"Berlin, 22nd February.—There was a large pro-German demonstration in Moscow. The German Consul only took notice thereof for the purpose of report. On the other hand there was a pro-Russian demonstration in Prag against the German Consulate-General on account of Japanese articles of the German Press.

"The *Daily Mail's* report, that the German cruisers are spying the movements of the Japanese squadron, are declared here to be a perfidious invention, because, as a matter of fact, all movements of the German men-of-war near the field of operations of the belligerents are made only with the consent of the commander-in-chief of the Japanese fleet.

"The report of the *Figaro* with regard to secret agreements of Germany with Russia or Great Britain for the Far East is utterly unfounded.

"All reports of military arrangements for the protection of the neutrality of the different Powers are most seriously exaggerated. A mobilisation of troops is taking place nowhere."—*O. Lloyd.*

"Chefoo, 24th February.—The report of a Russian reverse off the Yalu is unconfirmed."—*N.-C. D. N.*

"Chefoo, 24th February.—Viceroy Alexieff is at present at Moukden. Lieutenant-General Lenjewitsch is commanding the Russian troops of Liaotung and General Stoessel those of Port Arthur."—*O. Lloyd.*

OTHER ITEMS.

Quarters for 10,000 Japanese troops were requisitioned at Pingyang last month.

The owners of the German steamer *Pronto* which had such a severe handling at the hands of the Russians during the bombardment of Port Arthur, has through the German Consulate at Shanghai lodged a protest at the Russian Consulate for damages received.

The *Sinwenpao* says that the British Consul at Newchwang has declared that the cause of the suspension of traffic on the Chinese railway at Shanhaikwan was due to the fact that China feared that the Russians might utilise the line during hostilities with Japan. The line has now been handed over to the care of the British Consul.

The *Mercury's* Chemulpo correspondent wrote on the 14th ult.:—Preparations are being made for the Japanese army to start for the Yalu from Seoul. Two transports arrived on the 13th. Only a few soldiers were landed, but any amount of ammunition was landed and coolies and others belonging to the ambulance department, etc., disembarked. But a large number of other transports with troops are expected. Three yen per day are paid those who are willing to work with the overland transport service

to the Yalu, which I think is rather a roundabout way to get to Manchuria. So early as the 8th February the Japanese had 5,000 men at Seoul, without counting the reservists and the so-called railway coolies that had been brought over in batches long before. On the 14th all Japanese reserves were called in. All Japanese males here have to pay a war-tax; even boys of ten and twelve, if they are working, have to pay.

Among the passengers on board the U.S.A.T. *Thomas*, which arrived in Nagasaki on the 22nd ult., were Mr. Sam B. Trissel, Associate Editor of the *Manila American*, and Mr. James Reed Hull, *Manila Times* and *Sunday Sun*, who left the vessel at this port and proceeded to Tokyo to swell the throng of correspondents who are waiting for permits to accompany the Japanese army.

The Russian steamer *Manchuria*, which was captured at Nagasaki on the 17th ultimo last is now being repaired at the Mitsui Bishis, Akumura Engine Works. The work will take a week or two, and the vessel will then be taken to Sasebo.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following telegram, which, it will be seen, is much to the same effect as our London correspondent's telegram published on Saturday:—"Tientsin, 26th February.—The Japanese have successfully routed the Russian garrison at Hunchun, near the north-east boundary of Corea, and are now marching on Kirin. The Russians at Moukden and Kirin are reported to be demoralised. The greater part of the Russian troops are concentrating on the Yalu river."

The *Mandjour* is to remain at Shanghai, but she will dismantle. It was stated that the steering gear was to be disconnected at 8 a.m. on the 27th ult., and the gunboat thus rendered incapable of offensive action. An undertaking will also be given not to take in any more coal.

On the 24th ult., three Japanese war vessels arrived at Shanghai, one being the *Akitsuishima*, which again has anchored near the telegraph office at Woosung. The *Idzumi* and *Suma* took up their station opposite the mouth of the river, some five or six miles from the *Akitsuishima*.

The s.s. *Lyceum*, Messrs. Siemssen & Co., is said to have been detained by the Japanese near Port Arthur. The steamer has on board provisions and contraband of war consigned to Port Arthur.

News from Port Arthur to the 21st is that the battleship *Retvizan*, stranded at the mouth of the harbour, is being dismantled as rapidly as possible, the Russians working night and day taking out her guns, fittings, etc. One of the damaged Russian cruisers has been taken into the only dock, but her bottom is very seriously injured, and it is not known when her repairs will be completed. The cruiser *Novik* is lying in the west basin with a very heavy list, in fact almost on her beam ends.

With regard to the *Novik* we note that a Newchwang despatch of the 12th ult. says that Viceroy Alexieff has decorated the Commander of the *Novik* with the S. George's Cross, for having fought and sunk a Japanese cruiser. What cruiser this is, we do not know.

The natives say that the Russians are hard pressed owing to the lack of provisions at Port Arthur. A portion of the garrison has been sent away from Port Arthur. The forts are, as matter of fact, not so formidable as at first given out to be. Port Arthur, according to native opinion, cannot resist more than one or two attacks.

Martial law was declared on the 9th ult. in Kwantung, Maritime Islands, and Sakhalin, and the districts along the Chinese Eastern Railway.

Four Japanese battleships and nine cruisers passed Weihaiwei bound towards the Promontory on the evening of the 24th ult.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* issues the following:—Fifteen transports left Nagasaki during last week, taking 25,000 men of infantry and artillery to North Corea. All transports have, instead of lifeboats, large Japanese sampans at their davits, and there were also stored two or three rows of sampans on the upper deck for the purpose of landing the troops. The equipment of the transports is reported to be splendid. The *Manchuria*, which was taken by the Japanese in the harbour of Nagasaki, when war was declared, while she was undergoing the repairs to her boilers and engines, is now so far advanced that

she will leave to day (? 26th ultimo) or tomorrow for Sasebo.

Fifteen hundred Russian infantry marched into the native city of Newchwang, headed by bands and flying banners, on the 15th ult. Their arrival was followed by great excitement and confusion. These troops were marched out again the next day.

A despatch dated Port Arthur via Chefoo, 18th February, says:—Of the forty-five warships in Port Arthur harbour, the Russian loss up to date is 12 warships.

No Russian Note with regard to a violation of Corea's neutrality has so far been received by the Berlin Foreign Office. Certainly small notice only could be taken of such a communication, which can hardly have any consequences at all, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*.

THE WELCOME TO BRITISH OFFICERS.

Admiral Inouye, Commander of Yokosuka Naval Station, and other officers, gave a dinner to the British officers, who brought out the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* on the 16th ult. The guests, on arrival, were received by Admiral Inouye. In the course of a speech welcoming the guests of the evening, Admiral Inouye spoke very highly of the gallantry shown in undertaking the voyage, and expressed the opinion that the close of the war had been brought nearer by the arrival of the two ships. Captain Painter, of the *Kasuga*, briefly replied expressed the astonishment of his fellow officers in being so warmly welcomed. Three cheers were given to the officers and men who brought out the ships, and the party broke up after spending a very pleasant evening.

THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES

A few further details regarding the Russian refugees now at Hongkong on the Italian cruisers *Elba* are interesting. When they first took refuge on the *Elba* at Chemulpo the temperature was many degrees below freezing point, yet the Italian sailors cheerfully gave up their blankets to them. Admiral Bridge paid a visit to the *Elba* at Hongkong, and saw the wounded midshipman, who has been occupying the cabin of the second in command. The captain of the *Elba* had two Russian officers in his sitting-room. Other officers, also, have given up their quarters, and now sleep in hammocks. When one considers the clock-work discipline of a warship, and how much one "outsider" is in the way, one may imagine what inconvenience the 181 refugees have caused the crew of the *Elba*, which in itself only consists of some 250 men. The Russian Consul at Hongkong is much touched by the hospitality shown to the refugees by their Italian comrades. He is now busy providing clothing to them suitable to a warm climate, having received full discretionary powers from his Government to supply the men's wants. His Excellency Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government, has granted permission for the wounded midshipman to be landed and placed in the Government Civil Hospital. The Italian Government is making arrangements as to the destination of the refugees.

NORTHERN NEWS.

A native report says that the defence of Vladivostock is very inefficient. There are only 10 torpedoes for the defence of the forts. Many of the latter need repairs.

The *Universal Gazette* says that M. Lessar, the Russian Minister, has not accepted the proposal of the Wuiwupu, to send the *Mandjour* away from port or to put her out of commission as the only alternative. The French Minister has advised M. Lessar to land the guns and arms of the *Mandjour*.

Since M. Pavloff, the Russian Minister at Seoul, withdrew from the Korean capital, the Russian Consul at Fusan appears to have been placed in an awkward position. It is stated the Consul received no information whatever from M. Pavloff of the withdrawal of the Russian Legation, but was informed of the event by the Japanese authorities. As the telegraph between Fusan and Russia is now interrupted, the Consul has no channel through which to ask for instructions immediately as to the course to be taken by him. He is at present under the protection of the Japanese authorities, having, it would seem, been forgotten by his Minister.

The steamer *Providence*, from Shanghai to Chinwangtao, arrived at Tientsin on the 25th

ult. Her passengers discredited the reported Japanese losses at Port Arthur, as the *Providence* was stopped early on the 25th close to Port Arthur by the Japanese squadron, which was then apparently quite sound.

The *Sincoenpio* gathers from a Kinchow despatch that upon the arrival of a reinforcement of over 10,000 Russian troops at Liaoyang, the Russian authorities ordered the Tartar General Tseung-chi and his civil and military subordinates to leave their *Yamens* and cross over to Kinchow, as the Russians wished to use the *Yamens* thus vacated as store-houses for provisions, etc. The Tartar General has given no reply to the Russians, as he did not know what to say to this unreasonable request. It is further said that Tseung-chi has decided to remain at his post, no matter what happens.

A native paper is informed by a Foochow despatch that a Japanese squadron consisting of five warships has arrived at the coast of Formosa with the object of guarding that Island and preventing Russian squadrons from combining!

THE JAPANESE-KOREAN PROTOCOL.

The following is the text of the Protocol signed on the 23rd ult. between Japan and Korea:—

Mr. Gonsuke Hayashi, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, and Major-General Yetchi Yong, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, *per interim*, of His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, being respectively duly empowered for the purpose, have agreed upon the following articles:—

Art. I.—For the purpose of maintaining a permanent and solid friendship between Japan and Korea, and firmly establishing peace in the Far East, the Imperial Government of Korea shall place full confidence in the Imperial Government of Japan, and adopt the advice of the latter in regard to improvements in administration.

Art. II.—The Imperial Government of Japan shall, in a spirit of firm friendship, ensure the safety and repose of the Imperial House of Korea.

Art. III.—The Imperial Government of Japan definitively guarantees the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire.

Art. IV.—In case the welfare of the Imperial House of Korea, or the territorial integrity of Korea, is endangered by the aggression of a third Power or internal disturbances, the Imperial Government of Japan shall immediately take such necessary measures as circumstances require, and in such case, the Imperial Government of Korea shall give full facilities to promote all action of the Imperial Japanese Government. The Imperial Government of Japan may, for the attainment of the above-mentioned object, occupy, when the circumstances require it, such places as may be necessary from strategic points of view.

Art. V.—The Government of the two countries shall not, in the future, without mutual consent, conclude with a third Power such an arrangement as may be contrary to the principles of present protocol.

Art. VI.—Details in connection with present protocol shall be arranged, as circumstances at maturity, between the Representative of Japan and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Korea.

THE REFUGEES ON THE "ELBA."

No little curiosity has been felt locally as to what is going to be done with the Russian refugees picked up by the Italian cruiser *Elba* at Chemulpo on the 9th ult. and brought down by her to Hongkong. They number some 180 (as the complement of the *Elba* is only 250, it may be imagined that their presence on board her for nearly a month put the Italians to no little inconvenience) and include some wounded. We are now able to state, on the most reliable authority, that the arrangements for the future of the refugees have all been settled and that they will leave on the Messageries Maritimes s.s. *Australien* for Saigon to-morrow. They, together with the refugees on the French cruiser *Pascal*, will then go on to Colombo, where the rest of the rescued crews are detained. When the whole body of the refugees are gathered together, they will be sent back to Russia on parole. Probably this afternoon Captain Borea of the *Elba* will formally hand over the refugees to the Russian Consul.

A summary of the negotiations with regard to the Chemulpo refugees will no doubt be of interest to our readers, and we accordingly give one, as well as a brief explanation of the various international questions that have arisen in the matter.

As is well known, on the 9th February, after an unsuccessful engagement just outside Chemulpo, the commander of the Russian warship *Koreetz* blew up his ship, and the commander of the *Varyag* sank his vessel, declaring they intended to take refuge on the neutral ships in Chemulpo harbour—the British *Talbot*, French *Pascal*, and the Italian *Elba*. These vessels then sent their boats and took off the men, many of them wounded, and unarmed. This episode was entirely unprecedented in naval history, and quite naturally so because naval engagements take place generally either in the open sea, or on the coasts of one of the belligerents; drowning men are therefore saved either by their own or the enemy's ships. The only case that presents any slight analogy to the one under review is the one that happened in the harbour of Callao, Peru, on the 3rd July, 1881, when the Italian man-of-war *Garibaldi* picked up the survivors of the Chilean transport *Lota*, which had been blown up, and afterwards gave them up to the admiral of the Chilean fleet blockading the harbour. But in that case the *Lota* had not been blown up either in an engagement with the Peruvians or by her own commander, but had been destroyed through carelessness in taking along-side a boat apparently laden with fruit and vegetables, but secretly laden with explosives. It might therefore be considered that the *Lota* had been destroyed by an accident, as no visible enemy had taken part in the explosion, which might have destroyed a neutral ship imprudent enough to seize the abandoned craft. The unprecedented nature of the Chemulpo episode has given rise to many opinions here and elsewhere in the Far East, amongst which is one that the refugees should have been set free on parole by the nations whose vessels had saved them; and another is that the commanders of the three neutral vessels had no right to take on board the crews of the *Varyag* and *Koreetz*. Though, as we have said, there is no parallel case in naval history, we may by analogy refer to military history, where there are many cases recorded of hard pressed troops taking refuge on neutral territory. In such cases, it has always been customary to detain the refugees until the end of the war. This custom has also been inserted as an article of the Hague convention, which expressly stipulates that neutral nations must detain until the end of the war the refugees from the belligerent armies which enter its territory. They must be *internes*, i.e. sent into the interior of the country, away from the frontier where the fighting is going on. This custom and the article of the Hague convention contain a complete answer to the opinions above mentioned. The commanders of the three neutral ships in Chemulpo harbour were right in according refuge to the defeated Russian crews, as the right of refuge is now generally admitted. On the other hand, the countries owning the three vessels had no right to release the refugees on parole, but on the contrary were obliged by international practice and by the stipulations of the Hague convention to detain the refugees on their territory and under their surveillance until the end of the war. As our readers all know, the refugees on H.M.S. *Amphitrite*, who were transhipped from the *Talbot*, were in fact sent to Colombo to be detained there until the end of the war.

The new arrangements, mentioned above, are due to special negotiations between the Governments interested, and we are not in a position to state anything further than that the Russian Government has promised the neutral Governments of Britain, France, and Italy that the refugees will take no further part in the present war, and in consequence the Japanese Government declared it had no objection to the refugees being sent back to Russia. This arrangement appears most satisfactory for all parties concerned, and reflects great credit on the Foreign Offices of the various countries which have so rapidly and smoothly settled an unprecedented international question, which might have led to interminable petty complications if dealt with in a less accommodating spirit.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

We understand that a very important official report on the fight at Chemulpo has been sent down by Captain Bailey, H.M.S. *Talbot*, but naturally it is of a confidential nature and not intended for publication.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON.

With regard to the movements of the Russian Vladivostock squadron after the sinking of the *Nagaura-maru*, Captain Enami, of that vessel, after his arrival in Japan, could not say what the war-ships were doing during the four days he was a prisoner on board until the squadron arrived at Vladivostock, as the Japanese were kept close prisoners below decks. According to his judgment, however, the squadron cruised to and fro off the coast of Japan apparently without any special object.

GERMAN PRINCE IN HONGKONG.

Between nine and ten o'clock in the morning of the 5th inst. German cruiser *Hertha* arrived at Hongkong, from Woosung. Amongst the junior lieutenants on board is Prince Adalbert of Prussia, second son of the Emperor William of Germany. It will be remembered that this young officer passed through Hongkong, voyaging from Germany to join the *Hertha* at Shanghai, by the N.D.L. s.s. *König Albert*, on the 25th of last November. At that time, in conformity with the German Emperor's desire, no official welcome or reception was given him. Now that he has joined his ship, however, things may be different. Prince Adalbert is a grand nephew of King Edward; he is to remain on the China Station for two years before returning to Germany.

SIX NEW STEAMERS FOR THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO.

The s.s. *Taming*, the last but one of six new twin-screw steamers for the China Navigation Co. (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) arrived here from Cardiff, on her maiden voyage, on the 3rd inst., leaving for Shanghai with her cargo, consisting of Welsh coal, yesterday morning. She is intended for the Shanghai trade, but the next vessel—the s.s. *Te An*—is intended for the Hongkong-Manila run, to run in conjunction with the s.s. *Sunghiang*, now undergoing extensive repairs at the hands of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. The other four sister-ships which have already arrived here are the *Anhui* (now at Australia), *Sinan*, *Chen-an*, and *Chen Hua*. All these half-dozen craft, with the exception of the *Te An*, already mentioned, are to be employed in general coasting. To describe one is, of course, pretty well to describe the lot. On boarding the *Taming* one cannot but admire the modern system of general arrangements, which, by the way, are rather unique in themselves. A spacious saloon, with fore-and-aft tables, has seating accommodation for some twenty or more persons, while the state-rooms, bath-rooms, lavatories, etc., are fitted up in the most up-to-date style. Appliances for working cargo—steam winches and derricks—work well, and are favourably placed. She has a spar-deck, and top gallant fore-castle; is schooner (two masts) rigged; 300 ft. in length; 40 ft. beam; 21½ ft. moulded depth; and has two sets of triple-expansion engines, her twin-screws being capable of propelling her some eleven knots per hour when deep loaded. She has two water ballast tanks, one at each end, so that should there be any necessity to trim her, or send her to sea without cargo, there will be no inconvenience.

Besides her cargo hatches she has three cargo ports on either side, so, when in coast ports where cargo hatches are but little cared for by Chinese stevedores, there will be every convenience. What is most interesting to shore people however, is the passenger accommodation. Three cabins are placed on either side of the house, immediately abaft the saloon. Each of these have two bunks, fitted with spring mattresses. The floors are covered with Brussels carpets. The vessel has a carrying capacity of about 3,000 tons. She was built and engined by Messrs. Scott & Co. of Greenock.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on the 9th February at 3.45 p.m., Present: Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. D. R. Law, (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, A. C. Wood, and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 12th ultimo were read and confirmed.

COMMITTEE.

The Chairman said Mr. Michelau resigned his seat on the committee on leaving the Colony, and a letter had been sent to him expressing the thanks of the Committee for his services during the preceding 14 months. It was decided to invite Mr. A. Haupt to rejoin the committee to fill the vacancy.

ACCOUNTS FOR 1903.

The Secretary reported that the accounts submitted at the last meeting had since been audited by the auditors, Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon and Hon. Gershom Stewart, and found correct.

FRENCH DUTY ON COFFEE.

Read letters dated 29th ultimo from the Colonial Secretary stating that the proposal to raise the tariff on coffee from 136 to 150 francs per 100 kilos had now been definitely abandoned by the French Government.

PIECE GOODS CONTRACTS.

The following letter from Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon was read referring to the recent case between Wendt & Co. and the Cho Yik Firm, decided by Mr. Justice Wise on the 18th ultimo:—

Hongkong, 18th January, 1904.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the practice which appears to prevail amongst piece goods merchants here of inserting, in many cases, the time of arrival of the goods in their contracts with Chinese as "Soonest possible" or some similar wording; and the decision of Mr. Justice Wise this morning in the above case that, notwithstanding these words, the Chinese were entitled to cancel the contract if it could be shown that there was such a delay in shipping the goods by the manufacturers at home as amounted, in the opinion of the Court, to unreasonable delay (in the present instance about 2 months); we would point out that it is advisable that the use of the words quoted above be discontinued, and that the words "As soon as we receive them" be inserted in the contract instead, or else a stipulation be inserted that the merchant shall not be responsible for delays by the manufacturers at home.—Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) DEACON, LOOKER & DEACON.

A. R. Lowe, Esq.,

Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

After some discussion it was agreed to publish the letter for the information of merchants, and not to take any further action unless requested by the merchants interested in the piece goods trade.

UNDESIRABLES BILL.

A copy of the petition addressed by the shipping firms and agencies to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government protesting against the hardship which would be inflicted on shipowners by the proposed "Undesirables Bill" was laid on the table.

CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

The following correspondence was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1904.

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government intends to declare China New Year's Day, February 16th, a public holiday. I am to request you to be so good as to inform me whether the committee of your Chamber have any objection to Monday, the 15th, also being declared a public holiday.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant.

(Sd.) R. F. JOHNSTON,

per Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

3rd February, 1904.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo notifying the intention of H.E. the Officer Administering the Government to declare China New Year's Day, Tuesday, the 16th instant, a public holiday, and requesting the committee's opinion as to the advisability of the preceding day, Monday, the 15th, also being declared a public holiday.

In reply, I am instructed to state that the committee of this Chamber are strongly against the proclamation of a public holiday on the day preceding China New Year's Day, and the majority of the Committee are of opinion that the declaration of Tuesday, the 16th instant, as a public holiday is sufficient for the needs of the Colony. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) A. Lowe,

Secretary.

Hon. A. M. Thomson,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary reported that the Government Gazette of the 6th instant contained a notification that Tuesday and Wednesday, February 16th and 17th instant, were to be observed as public holidays.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 28th August, 1903.

Dear Sirs,—The attention of the committee of this Chamber has been recently drawn by several of the leading firms in this Colony to the terms of your circular dated 29th ultimo, in which you intimate that the telegraph service hitherto run jointly by your respective companies will be discontinued as from the 1st August and, in future, each company will transact its business separately.

It is scarcely necessary to point out that this step on your part is not one which senders of telegrams, and much less this Chamber, have any right, or wish, to criticise.

The circular, however, goes on to inform senders of telegrams that in future the present deposit system is to be terminated, and in its place conditions are substituted which may be summarised as follows:—

(1) A deposit is to be made with the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China for the joint account of both companies.

(2) The amount of the deposit is to be fixed by the companies and to represent the average cost of one month's telegrams forwarded by both companies' lines.

(3) The interest on the deposit is to be retained by the companies.

(4) Monthly accounts payable on demand and independently of the fixed deposits will be rendered by each company.

(5) If the above option is not complied with, telegrams must be paid for in cash before transmission.

It is with regard to these latter conditions that I am to express the views of my committee. In the first place, barely two days' notice is given of the change of system and of a demand for a large fixed deposit. My committee are of opinion that, in view of the radical change which you have effected in the conduct of your business, longer notice should have been given of the proposed change.

In order to facilitate the discussion of the new conditions, I will refer to them in the order above mentioned:—

1. It seems strange to my committee that while you find yourselves unable to receive deposits sufficient to cover current business with both companies as formerly, you are now able to receive a deposit in the joint names of two companies. The simplification of your accounts in these matters may be very desirable to yourselves, but from a business point of view this is universally considered subsidiary to the convenience of customers. Further it does not seem right that any person wishing to do business with one company alone should be obliged to deposit his funds with both companies jointly.

2. In fixing the deposit at the average cost of one month's telegrams it must be apparent to you that the advantage is all on your side. The utmost surely your companies can demand is cash on deposit of a telegram immediately before its transmission. The month's deposit you require means that for the best part of the month the sender of telegrams will have a

balance to his credit in your books. From the nature of your business it is unreasonable to ask him to give your companies this credit, nor does it appear necessary in such cases where there is no question as to the financial standing of the firm, or individual, with whom you are in business relations. It would certainly make the transaction a more equitable one if the deposit now required was reduced to one half.

3. That the whole of the interest, allowed by the bank on the deposits, should be claimed by the companies is unjust to the depositor and contrary to custom. It has been stated by you in reply to a member of this Chamber that the intention of this interest is a fair compensation for the credit you give and the trouble of book-keeping. In paragraph No. 2 it is shown that under this new system the credit is given by the depositor and not by you, unless indeed you delay sending out the previous month's accounts. It does not, therefore, appear reasonable to my committee that you should demand extra payment for the trouble of entering in your own books transactions with your creditors. They are not aware that other similar concerns demand this, or that this allowance has ever previously been claimed by your companies. It has always been understood that the authorised tariff rates covered all expenses of the administration and left presumably a substantial amount of profit.

4.—The rendering of monthly accounts calls for no special remark, as this occasions no more work on your part than formerly, if anything, trouble is saved to you, as neither will you have occasion to receive amounts for cover during the month nor will your book-keepers require to keep any watch on overdrawn accounts (if any).

5.—It follows that a sender of telegrams not exercising the option given him of depositing his money with your companies without even interest on the same, must pay cash each time he desires to send a telegram through your administration. Several members have already followed this course, and the more it is followed the greater will be the expense, delay, and consequent annoyance to the whole mercantile community as well as to yourselves, as you are well aware that the handling of cash in small amounts is not a quick process, especially in this Colony.

In voicing the views of the mercantile community on this question, my committee are not representing the facts too strongly in stating that the new conditions imposed by your companies are strongly objected to not merely on account of their arbitrary nature, but as another instance of the discrimination between your dealings with customers at home and abroad. Credit is given at home without demand to any respectable firm, and their business eagerly sought for on account of the healthy competition. In this connection, as you stated that you must act alike to all parties, it would be interesting to know what deposit has been required from the Government as security for their monthly telegram account, also what percentage of bad debts have been made in Hongkong since establishment here. The latter must be infinitesimal, and is another argument against the necessity for requiring credit. Your companies are as well placed as any mercantile house in the Colony for gauging the stability of your customers; there is no valid reason why credit should not be given by you instead of to you; and my committee would be the last to put any obstacles in your way in cases where it appears to you to be advisable for financial reasons to ask for cash payments.

In reply to an enquirer you have stated that there is no Government telegraph office in the world where telegrams can be handed in without cash payment. This fact is not denied, but the committee do not feel called upon to defend the business methods of Government institutions. Nor can they admit the inference you wish to draw that your administrations are on the same basis as Government Departments, in face of the fact that you are both limited liability companies formed for purpose of profit to your shareholders. One of the chief reasons why you were able to obtain certain privileges as regards landing rights was in view of the benefit which commerce would be likely to enjoy through the quick transmission of news. For no other reason would you have obtained these privileges at a nominal cost, and it was not

then supposed that you would take advantage in dealing with your customers of the fact of these privileges having resulted in the formation of a monopoly.

In conclusion I am to state that this Chamber would welcome a more generous treatment of the mercantile community of this Colony in the certain belief that it would be to the mutual advantage of all concerned, and in regard to the question now under discussion, it will be glad to learn that the joint administration is prepared to view the matter in a more liberal light.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

J. M. Beck, Esq.,
Superintendent, Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company.
Olaf Nielsen, Esq.,
Superintendent, Great Northern Telegraph Company.

Hongkong Station, 29th August, 1903.

Dear Sir,—We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date setting forth the views of your committee regarding the new telegram deposit system; and we are instructed by the companies' managers at Shanghai to state in reply that your letter will be submitted to their respective boards of directors.—We are, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

J. M. BECK,
Superintendent, Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.
OLAF NIELSEN,
Superintendent, Great Northern Telegraph Company.
A. R. Lowe, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

CABLE COMPANIES AND CUSTOMERS' DEPOSITS.

The following correspondence was laid on the table:—

Hongkong, 9th January, 1904.

A. R. Lowe, Esq., Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—With reference to our letter of the 29th August regarding the telegram deposit system, we are instructed by the Companies' managers at Shanghai to state that, in reply to your letter of the 28th August, the Companies' respective board of directors have wired that they have decided that the whole of the interest allowed by the bank shall be paid to the depositors.

The Companies trust that this concession will be considered by the Chamber as satisfactorily settling the question, the more so as only a small minority of the Companies' clients have expressed any dissatisfaction with the new system.—We are, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. M. BECK,
Superintendent, Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.

(Sd.) OLAF NIELSEN,
Superintendent, Great Northern Telegraph Co.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1904.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant in reply to my letter of the 28th August last on the subject of customers' deposits, and I am to inform you that the decision of your respective board of directors to refund the whole of the interest on the deposits to the depositors cannot be regarded by the committee of this Chamber in the light of a concession as you letter infers, but rather as a tardy act of restitution of an imposition which should not have been made in the first instance by your companies, and further I am to point out that the mere fact of so few of your clients having expressed any dissatisfaction with the new system does not carry much weight with my Committee, as it was well known that this Chamber would take the matter up, and naturally many members accordingly refrained from openly expressing their dissatisfaction.

It is a matter of regret that your administration has ignored the main point at issue, which was the rehabilitation of the old system, and my committee again beg you to give this matter your further consideration.

Should this not be acceptable to you I am to draw your attention to paragraph 2 in my previous letter, which runs as follows:—

"In fixing the deposit at the average cost of one month's telegrams it must be apparent to you that the advantage is all on your side. The utmost surely your Companies can demand is cash on deposit of a telegram immediately before its transmission. The month's deposit you require means that for the best part of the month the sender of telegrams will have a balance to his credit in your books. From the nature of your business it is unreasonable to ask him to give your Companies this credit, nor does it appear necessary in such cases where there is no question as to the financial standing of the firm, or individual, with whom you are in business relations. It would certainly make the transaction a more equitable one if the deposit now required was reduced to one-half."

The reduction of the deposit claimed by one-half would, as pointed out, make the attitude of your administration a more equitable one, and the committee of this Chamber will be glad to learn that you can meet the wishes of the mercantile community to this extent if your administration is unable to meet them in the fuller sense represented above.

Several members of this Chamber have expressed surprise at the length of time found necessary to arrive at a decision in this matter. My committee trust that the further reconsideration of their representations now desired may be communicated to them with the least possible delay.

I am to point out that this correspondence will be published in due course in the monthly minutes of the Chamber of Commerce.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant.

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE, Secretary.
J. M. Beck, Esq., Superintendent, Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.;
Olaf Nielsen, Esq., Superintendent, Great Northern Telegraph Co.

Hongkong Station,

21st January, 1904.

Dear Sir,—We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 20th instant, and to state that the same is being submitted to the Companies' Managers at Shanghai.—We are, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. M. BECK,
Superintendent, E. E. Tele. Co.
(Sd.) OLAF NIELSEN,
Superintendent, G. N. Tele. Co.
A. R. Lowe Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Station,

4th February, 1904.

Dear Sir,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo on the subject of the telegram deposit account. In reply thereto we are instructed to state that the Companies are not prepared to admit that the present system is in any respect inequitable, or that the refund of the whole interest to the depositors does not constitute a real concession seeing that the Companies will thereby lose all interest on the amounts due to them until the monthly accounts have been settled.

The Companies regret that they are unable to meet the views of the committee with regard to the rehabilitation of the old system, as the separate working arrangements which the Companies have recently inaugurated render the said system impracticable.

In order, however, as far as possible to meet the wishes of the committee the Companies are willing to reduce the amount of the deposit to one-half, on the understanding that the minimum sum received on deposit shall as hitherto be fixed at \$25, and that the Companies reserve the right to render half monthly accounts.—We are, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. M. BECK,
Superintendent, E. E. Tele. Co.
(Sd.) OLAF NIELSEN,
Superintendent G. N. Tele. Co.
A. R. Lowe, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman said that though the result of the correspondence was not entirely as satisfactory as could have been wished, still better terms had been obtained from the Companies

than they had at first imposed on the community.

EXPLOSIVES ON BOARD STEAMERS IN THE HARBOUR.

The following letter was read:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 26th January, 1904.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th ultimo enclosing copy of the new regulations issued by the Acting Harbour Master for the guidance of officers in his department in dealing with vessels arriving in the harbour and carrying small quantities of dangerous goods.

(2.) In reply I am instructed to state that the Committee of this Chamber regret the Government's inability to carry out more fully their suggestions for the greater relaxation of the law in this matter so as to allow vessels to proceed direct to their berths in cases where the quantity of ammunition carried is small, and I am to point out that unless the Harbour Office official boards a vessel immediately on arrival, and before anchoring, the efficiency of the new regulations will be much impaired, unless the master of a vessel carrying dangerous goods in small quantities not exceeding those laid down in regulation No. 1 is free to carry on to the ordinary anchorage without fear of a fine being imposed.

The Committee have every wish that the Government should know of all ammunition arriving in the Colony so as to control the movements of such goods, but they are unable to understand why the information collected by the boarding officers from the master of a vessel waiting to be allowed to anchor should be any more accurate than that obtained in the same manner after her arrival at the ordinary merchant vessel anchorage, particularly as a permit is required to land dangerous goods even in small quantities. They therefore trust that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government will authorise the addition to the new regulations of a clause suggested in the latter half of paragraph 2 so as to allow the vessel to proceed direct to her anchorage or wharf.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE, Secretary.
Hon. A. M. Thomson,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

JAPANESE MARKETS AND HONGKONG SUGAR. [Copy.]

To the Editor of the "Daily Press."

Japanese Consulate,
Hongkong, 16th January.

SIR,—In the leading article of your to-day's issue, a mention was made about Japan markets being closed against the refined sugar of Hongkong by prohibitive tariffs, and as I consider this statement is apt to give one rather an erroneous impression of the real fact, I request you to spare your valuable space for this letter.

The import duties in Japan on sugar according to the existing tariffs which came into force on 1st January, 1899, are as follows:—

Up to No. 14 Dutch standard, 5 per cent. ad. val., or 240 yen per picul.

From No. 15 to 20, 10 per cent. ad. val., or 748 yen per picul.

Upward No. 20, 10 per cent. ad. val., or 827 yen per picul.

Apart from the import duty, the consumption tax is equally payable by imported sugar as well as home products. Thus the advantage derived by the Japanese sugar refiners under the existing tariffs is limited to the difference of 5 per cent. between the import duty on raw sugar and that on refined. Furthermore, this discrimination had originally been aimed not against the free Hongkong sugar but against the bounty-fed Continental sugar with which Japan's markets had been "dumped" for some time past.

In spite of the difference in the import duty mentioned above, during the year 1902 as much as five and a half million yens' worth of refined was imported into Japan from Hongkong and other places.

I trust I have already given sufficient reasons to be able to claim that so far as sugar tariffs of Japan are concerned, they are not "prohibitive," though they are, no doubt, to some extent "preferential."—Yours, etc.,

MASANICHI NOMA,
Consul for Japan.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
2nd February, 1904.

Sir,—With reference to your letter to the Editor of the *Hongkong Daily Press* dated 16th ultimo, on the subject of the treatment of Hongkong manufactured sugar in Japan, I am instructed to draw your attention to an apparent inaccuracy in your figures relating to the import duties. It appears that in the spring of last year the import duty on sugar entering Japan under No. 15 Dutch Standard was raised from 204 yen to 271 yen per 100 Japanese kins. Further the kin being only equal to 1.32507 lbs. avoird. the duty works out at fractionally more per picul of 133 1/3 lbs. than the figures in your letter show.

The following figures show clearly to what extent the Hongkong refineries are discriminated against by the Japanese Government:—

Japanese refiners' import raw sugar and pay ... yen 271 duty.
Japanese refiners refine raw sugar and receive a drawback of ... yen 271 duty.

Japanese refiners pay consumption tax on refined sugars ... yen 1.60 2.20 2.80 (according to quality)

Total tax on Japanese refined sugars ... yen 1.60 2.20 2.80

Hongkong refiners import refined sugar and pay import duty ... yen 271 748 827 (according to quality)

Hongkong refiners import refined sugar and pay consumption tax ... yen 1.60 2.20 2.80 (according to quality)

Total Tax on Hongkong refined sugars ... yen 1.871 2.9 3.627
Difference in favour of Japanese refined sugar yen 271 748 827

This Chamber understands that as a matter of fact, very little refined sugar under No. 14 Dutch Standard is imported into Japan and the higher duties of yen 748 and yen 827 represent such a heavy percentage on market value that it is easy to believe they are really prohibitive. In this connection a glance at the following figures representing the value of refined sugars imported into Japan is instructive:—

1897...	yen 15,013,320
1898...	21,105,595
1899...	9,158,303
1900...	15,598,344
1901...	21,111,901
1902...	5,589,157

Although the "discrimination" alluded to in your letter may have been aimed chiefly against bounty-fed Continental sugar it obviously applies equally to sugar from Hongkong not bounty-fed, and there is wanting any evidence of a desire on the part of Japan to treat Hongkong products as Japanese products are treated in this Colony.

Any comments with which you may favour the Chamber on this subject will be appreciated. —I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Masanichi Noma, Esq., Consul for Japan,

Hongkong.
Japanese Consulate,
Hongkong, 4th February.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 2nd instant, and in reply I have the honour to express my high appreciation for your kindness that you had drawn my attention to a certain inaccuracy in my figures relating to the import duties of sugar, which was caused by my misuse of a reference book.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Sd.) MASANICHI NOMA,
Consul for Japan.

A. L. Lowe, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

DATING OF NEW YORK TELEGRAMS.

Read letter dated 9th ultimo, from the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce asking the Chamber to support them in their endeavour to obtain an alteration in the practice of the Commercial Cable Co., of omitting the

date and hour of despatch in messages passing over their lines, which is found to be of serious inconvenience to merchants in China dealing with America.

After some discussion it was decided to support the suggestion of the Shanghai Chamber by addressing the New York Chamber on the subject.

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirteenth annual general meeting of members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong was held in the rooms, No. 3 Des Vœux Road Central, on the 27th ult. There were present: Messrs. D. MacDonald (president), W. C. Jack (Vice-president), E. O. Murphy, H. T. Richardson, J. D. Logan, J. D. W. Thomson, C. F. Focken, W. Ramsay, T. Skinner, A. Bain, J. MacDonald, T. Robertson, J. Lambert, A. Ritchie, E. C. Wilks, J. McLachlan, W. Auld, A. Milroy, P. Simcock, W. G. Winterburn, H. K. Archibald, W. Stewart, F. Murchie, R. Knox, J. F. Miller (hon. secretary), and others.

The PRESIDENT said—Gentlemen,—The annual report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some time I propose, with your permission, to follow the usual custom and take them as read. For some years past the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders has not been progressing as it should do, and the close of the year 1903 as you will see from the report finds us in a worse condition than we have been in since the Institution was started just 13 years ago. As one of the founders I remember well the high hopes that were entertained by the first Committee and Members of the great things to be achieved by this Institution, and for a number of years it seemed as if their hopes might be realised. But gentlemen, we have fallen on evil times and unless the members wake up and take more interest and give more support to the working of the Institution, the time is not far distant when the question of winding up the Company will have to be seriously considered; for the Institution at the present time is not self-supporting. The balance (which I see the printer has kindly put in large letters) is slightly misleading as this balance is only attained after adding \$595.00 subscribed for the new billiard table and about \$100.00 from the Dance account, without which we should have been about \$700.00 to the bad, and I am sure none of the members wish this Institution to be run on charity. The Engineers and Shipbuilders of this Colony are well able to maintain an Institution worthy of the trades from which it takes its name, but if they decline to support such an Institution then there is nothing to be done but bow to the inevitable and shut up. Speaking for myself I should be very sorry indeed if we are forced to close—because it would be a sign that we E. and S. in Hongkong are lagging behind while kindred institutes all over the world are flourishing and forging ahead. Some members I am told, complain that they do not derive any benefit from the Institute, or at any rate not sufficient for the \$2.50 subscribed per month—well that I should say is the fault of the member, for you only require to walk into the reading room and look at the collection of papers and magazines and the splendid reference library to convince you that the member who is incapable of taking \$2.50 worth out of that room in the same number of hours must be wanting in those qualifications which are requisite in every Engineer and Shipbuilder. Before closing my remarks I would draw the attention of members to the classes which have lately been started under the direction of Mr. W. H. Williams for instruction in Practical Mathematics and Mechanics, and with this Institution in a flourishing condition there is no reason why these classes should not be arranged so that every member who wished to do so, might take part in them, and this is only one of the many benefits that members might derive from the Institute if they would support it in a whole-hearted and genuine manner. Before moving the adoption of the report I shall be pleased to answer any questions or give any information within my power.

Replying to Mr. Murphy, the hon. treasurer (Mr. C. F. Focken) said the amount outstanding and due to the Institution was now about \$1500.

The President proposed, Mr. Jack seconded, and it was agreed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. Bain drew attention to the falling off in membership during the past few years, and said there was something wrong somewhere.

The President replied that the committee had been doing all in their power to make the Institute attractive to members, the majority of whom seemed quite disinterested in the matter.

The meeting then proceeded to discuss the question of admitting marine officers and gentlemen connected with shipping as associate members of the Institution.

Mr. Jack mentioned that the committee had already discussed the matter, and agreed it would be best to learn the views of members regarding the proposal. In the opinion of the Committee gentlemen connected with the shipping interests, afloat and ashore—shipping clerks, captains and officers of steamers—should be associate members, but they would, of course, be subject to election by ballot by the committee, and if admitted would have the same privilege as ordinary members with the exception that they would have no voice in the management of the Institute.

Several members were strongly in favour of keeping the Institution purely for engineers and ship-builders, and if necessary, the subscriptions might be raised. Eventually it was agreed to postpone the discussion in order to get the views of seagoing members.

The question of increasing subscriptions was deferred to the next meeting.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year.

President:—Mr. W. C. Jack. Vice-Presidents:—H. T. Richardson and J. Lammert. Committee of Management:—Messrs. D. MacDonald, H. Richardson, J. Lambert, T. Banks, Crake, W. Ramsay, J. D. Thomson, J. Logan, E. C. Wilks, J. MacDonald, and T. W. Robertson. Hon. Secretary:—Mr. J. G. Miller. Hon. Librarian:—Mr. J. D. W. Thomson. Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. C. F. Focken.

Votes of thanks to the officers for their services during the past year brought the proceedings to a close.

ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals was held on the 29th ult. in the Alice Memorial Hospital. Hon. A. W. Brewin presided, and there were also present Hon. C. W. Dickson, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Rev. T. W. Pearce, Mr. G. Murray Bain, Mr. J. Goosmann, Mr. A. Ramjahn, Mr. T. W. Tso, Rev. H. R. Wells (Hon. Treasurer), and Dr. R. MacLean Gibson (Secretary).

The SECRETARY submitted the annual report which showed that during 1903 the number of out-patients (individual cases) treated in connection with the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals and Kowloon City Dispensary had been 13,437, while the total attendances numbered 24,883. Owing to the prevalence of bubonic plague during the summer months many left the Colony, and others were afraid to come to the hospital lest they should be reported as suffering from plague. As a result the numbers for 1903 were somewhat less than in 1902. In the wards of the Nethersole Hospital there were 360 in-patients, and in the Alice Memorial Hospital 465, making a total of 825. It having been found necessary from time to time to reduce the number of beds in the Alice Hospital on account of frequent outbreaks of beri-beri among the patients, and because of the hospital having become surrounded by high buildings so that free access of air is almost impossible, the yearly total showed a decrease in the number of in-patients. Experience had shown that the Alice Memorial Hospital is admirably situated for out-patient work, being only a short distance from the landing stages of launches from Shaikwan, Yaumati, etc., but that the treatment of in-patients is not so satisfactory as in the Nether-

sole Hospital, which is situated on a higher level. A Chinese lady, having generously offered to build a hospital specially adapted for in-patients, and the Colonial Government through the good offices of His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, K.C.M.G., having promised a site, immediately to the west of the Nethersole Hospital, there is every prospect that in 1904 a scheme for extension will be carried out. On 23rd July Lady Blake, in the presence of a representative gathering of those interested in the hospitals, laid the foundation-stone of the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital. It was with great regret the Committee had to record the death of Mrs. H. D. Stevens, Matron of the hospitals, who since 1891 had been closely connected with the daily work of the hospitals. Mrs. Stevens was a faithful and efficient nurse. They were fortunate in having the services of Miss Langdon, who had come as a voluntary worker to help Mrs. Stevens. The Evangelistic work has been carried on daily in the out-patient and in-patient departments, and large numbers have heard the Gospel who could not have been reached by other agencies.

Rev. H. R. WELLS submitted the Hon Treasurer's report, from which it appeared that the income during the past year amounted to \$14,567.14, being \$3,227.16 less than the expenditure.

On the motion of Mr. G. MURRAY BAIN the Treasurer's report was adopted.

Rev. Mr. PEARCE moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. H. C. Nicolle, H. R. Wells, and P. Lawson for their work in connection with the accounts. The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. J. GOOSMANN, Mr. WELLS was re-elected Treasurer.

Dr. MACLEAN GIBSON moved, Hon. Dr. HO KAI seconded, and it was agreed that Hon. A. W. Brewin be re-elected chairman for the ensuing year.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI moved that the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital be affiliated with the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals so that the one Finance Committee could manage and administer the three hospitals. He mentioned that the Maternity Hospital was almost ready for the reception of patients, and that ground had been acquired for the extension of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals, so that they should have a new hospital in about two years.

The CHAIRMAN seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

This was all the business

REVIEWS

Korea. By ANGUS HAMILTON. London: William Heinemann.

Most assuredly Mr. Hamilton could not have chosen a better time at which to bring out his book on Korea than now, when the eyes of all the world are turned in the direction of that little known country, where stirring events are already occurring and may be expected to occur increasingly for a long time to come. He has, moreover, not only chosen his time well, but he has also placed a good book before the public. Mr. Hamilton writes well and interestingly alike of Korea's people and of its scenery—about which latter, by the way, he is quite enthusiastic. Certainly in parts it must merit his eulogies. About the Koreans themselves Mr. Hamilton does not find it possible to rhapsodise; ignorance and filth are not pleasing characteristics in any nation, and the Koreans show them to excess. Yet the author is not unsympathetic or unfair; only he cannot suppress the truth. The most important sections of the book, however, are those dealing with the political side of the Korean question. Mr. Hamilton discusses British, American, French, Belgian, German, Russian, and Japanese influences in Korea, naturally devoting most attention to the two last-named influences. He sketches the unending struggle of Japan and Russia for predominance at Seoul and throughout the country. The story is a striking one, and it has, of course, just now reached its most exciting scene, in which the future of Korea must be settled, if not finally, at least for a long time to come. Mr. Hamilton carries the narrative down to the 23rd October last, when a Japanese warship dropped anchor in the Yalu estuary near Yong-ampho, as a counter-demonstration

to Russia's intrigues and movements at that place. What has happened since, or the outlines at least of what has happened, we know. It is to be noted that Mr. Hamilton severely censures the conduct of the Japanese in Korea toward the natives, and insists that, if the relations between the Powers are to continue upon a satisfactory footing in Korea, it will be necessary for the Japanese Government to remedy existing abuses. He says that it is the scum of the Japanese nation which settled down on Korea. It behoves Japan to get rid of this reproach.

In the chapters which are devoted to the treaty ports, commerce, and finance, the writer has got together much valuable information, and has contrived at the same time to avoid the dullness of mere statistics. He is not encouraging to British readers in his remarks on the loss of Korean trade by British merchants and shippers. He quotes figures to show that of the 1,160,865 tons of steam shipping entered at the open ports of Korea during 1902, 877,143 tons were Japanese, 165,782 Korean, 101,222 Russian, and 11,998 British. And he remarks that of the carrying trade of the Far East in general, the figures which support our pre-eminence are misleading. "If the true conditions were made manifest, it would be seen that, so far from leading the shipping of the world in the Far East, Great Britain could claim but a small proportion of the freights carried. Although we may own the ships, neither our markets nor our manufactures are associated with their cargoes." Mr. Hamilton dwells strongly on the necessity of securing a British nominee as supervisor of the maritime customs. His sketch of Mr. McLeavy Brown, the present Chief Commissioner, is well worth reading. The point stands out clearly that Mr. Brown is a most remarkable man, who has done more for Korea than anyone else, Korean or foreign, to keep the tottering country from falling in ruin. How he has done it still remains a marvel after reading Mr. Hamilton's able description.

Korea is excellently illustrated. From photographs, has a large map of the country, and is in every way a credit to its publisher. We may mention that the price is 15/-, at which it should command a good sale, especially just now.

A History of Japan. By JAMES MURDOCH, M.A., and ISOH YAMAGATA. Kobe: Kobe Chronicle Office.

The full title of this work is *A History of Japan during the Century of Early Foreign Intercourse (1542-1651)*. At the end Mr. Murdoch announces that he proposes to continue his task in a future volume, a promise which will be listened to with pleasure. Mr. Murdoch's name as a writer on Japanese historical subjects is well known in Japan and in a less degree outside that country. A certain amount of his work has seen the light, we believe, in the columns of the *Kobe Chronicle*, the Editor of which paper has seen the pages of the work before us through the press. Of Mr. Isoh Yamagata Mr. Murdoch says that besides being responsible for the maps (which we must state are of first-rate quality and splendidly executed) he supplied him with thousands of pages of translations from Japanese authorities; and he further compiled the Index.

It would be impossible without devoting a great deal of space—more, in fact, than in these times of war news and war rumours could be given to a single review—to do full justice to Messrs. Murdoch's and Yamagata's work. It is exhaustive of the period which it covers, and there seems no reason why it should be superseded by any English work of a similar kind. Further, though it is full, it is not diffuse nor tedious. The only grave fault which mars it is one of style, for Mr. Murdoch is too apt to drop into slang or similar unworthy language, bringing the discriminating reader up with a sharp shock occasionally. This would be easy enough to avoid, and we trust that Mr. Murdoch in a future edition will strike out some of his less dignified expressions. His *History of Japan* is too good a book to suffer from the imputation of slipshod style in places.

The tale which Mr. Murdoch and his collaborator have to tell is one of notable interest, that of the first contact of a remarkable people like the Japanese (for remarkable they have been from the beginning of their

history until the present day) with the pioneers of Western religion and civilisation in the Far East. It may be noted that Mr. Murdoch does not write in a spirit of thorough sympathy with the early missionaries. He is keenly alive to their faults indeed, and takes a very different view of some of their actions from what they themselves and their usual European critics took. Nevertheless his judgement is on the whole very fair and impartial. He certainly endeavours to do justice to some of the Japanese historical characters who suffered through the pens of their missionary adversaries; but, all the same, he does not attempt to disguise the many faults of such men as Hideyoshi, etc. His character-drawing of the peasant Tokichiro, who afterwards became the hero Hideyoshi, is an admirable piece of work. The story of his rise to the position of master of Japan is one of thrilling interest. It is very curious in these days when we are reading of Japanese torpedo attacks on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, of their naval gunnery, of their infantry trained on German principles, and of their regulations, with regard to war correspondents, to turn back to the old days when the gift of a few arquebuses by Christian missionaries enabled one small *daimyo* to exalt himself at the expense of his neighbours, or when the fighting Buddhist monks of Negoro were a power to be reckoned with in war. There is a wonderful charm in old Japanese history, which is only intensified by the outward entire break between it and modern days. Yet we know that the spirit of *daimyo* and *samurai* is not dead, and it is therefore interesting to read of its manifestations in the old feudal times and to compare them with those of new Japan. Mr. Murdoch's book helps the reader to do this, and he deserves our thanks therefore. He and his collaborator are to be complimented on their achievement.

The manner in which the work has been turned out by the *Kobe Chronicle* office is more than creditable; and as we have already stated, the maps which accompany the text are most excellent—and, moreover, are on paper that does not tear away from the book like the average map.

East of Asia. Vol. II. No. 4. Shanghai: North-China Herald Office.

Though we cannot appreciate the colouring of its cover, the new number of the *East of Asia* magazine is one of more than usual interest. Two of the best articles in it concern Japan—Mr. Francis McCullagh's "The Japanese Army Manœuvres" (extracts from which have already been quoted in the *Daily Press* columns), and Mr. C. E. Bruce-Mitford's "Up Fuji with a Camera," the only fault we have to find with which is that some of the photographs are rather poorly reproduced. Other excellent contributions are Dr. R. C. Beebe's "Stories of Nanking," Dr. Macklin's "Triennial Examinations in China," and Mr. S. J. Woodbridge's "Kuling." But there are several other readable articles, and the majority of the illustrations are very good. An interesting notice of Mr. F. Cumont's *Mysteries of Mithra* occurs among the book reviews.

A special notice states that the next issue of the *East of Asia* will be a special number, which will deal almost exclusively with educational subjects in the Chinese Empire. It will be embellished with photographs of the educational establishments and prominent educationalists in China; and it is hoped that it will be published in time for the approaching S. Louis Exposition, for which a special edition will be prepared.

Buddhism. Vol. I. No. 2. Rangoon: International Buddhist Society

The second number of this enterprising quarterly, published at Rangoon by the International Buddhist Society, maintains the high level of its predecessor. The greater part of the first 30 pages are taken up with an account of the installation of the Thathanabing (Archbishop, practically) of Upper Burma, and with some reflections on the ceremony. Some accounts of this a good many have read before; but the rest of the magazine has plenty of new matter of an interesting character. The whole magazine is marked by the sincerity of its tone, and whatever we may think of its object we can but admire its spirit. The contributors to the present number include Professor Rhys Davids,

Messrs. James Allen (author of *All These Things Added*, etc.), E. H. Seppings, and others, including, of course, the Editor himself, who has several articles. "Notes and News" and "As Others See Us," a discussion on reviews of the first number of *Buddhism*, are very readable. The only thing to be regretted is the absence of any translations from the Pali in the present number; though Mr. Maung Kin's "Legend of Upagutta," from a Burmese translation of a Pali tale, is very interesting.

The illustrations are capitally reproduced, as in the first number. They include a portrait of the Thathanabaing and a scene at the Durbar when he was installed by Sir Hugh Barnes.

China's Business Methods and Policy. By T. R. JERNIGAN. Hongkong and Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh.

At some time or other, especially at the commencement of his career in China, the commercial man must have experienced the need of a volume giving in a comprehensive manner an account of the business methods which obtain among the Chinese, and Mr. Jernigan, who for some years held the post of Consul-general for the United States at Shanghai, has, in writing such a volume, rendered a service for which many will doubtless be grateful to him. The "old China hand" may not perhaps find in the book much that he does not already know about the administrative system, land tenure, sources of revenue, interior trade routes, the guilds, banks, the trend of commerce in China, and various other branches of the subject to which the author devotes separate chapters, but even for such readers the author's comments on the policy of China and the commercial rivalry of the Western nations in China cannot fail to possess some attraction. In addition to the subjects just enumerated, the book contains chapters on the judicial system of China, the Imperial Household, family law, the educational system, extraterritoriality, the Consular system, and on missionaries. A special chapter is devoted to the administration of Shanghai. This enumeration, which is still incomplete, sufficiently indicates that in the space of about 450 pages Mr. Jernigan has given a comprehensive digest of information with which it is desirable, if not essential, that the foreign resident in China should make himself familiar.

Beyond saying that the information appears to be accurate as well as terse, there is little else that need be said in a review as regards the chapters which describe the facts of Chinese law, customs, and business arrangements. Parenthetically, however, we are curious to know whether in the chapter on the Imperial Household Mr. Jernigan has intentionally given Koxinga, rather than Koxinga, as the name of the "Sea-Quelling Duke," who, refusing to acknowledge the Manchu yoke in 1643, drove the Dutch from Formosa and constituted himself king of the island. In the chapter on the commercial trend, Mr. Jernigan passes a comment on the Mackay treaty to which it may be useful to draw attention. After pointing out that the treaty is still ineffective from the absence of agreement among the Powers as to certain more or less important details, Mr. Jernigan insists that the coming treaty with China should simply ordain that there shall be one tax or tariff, and one only, levied on imports at the port of entry, the payment of which should entitle the imported merchandise to go free throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, and he hopes that before an acceptable finality is arrived at in regard to "the so-called Mackay treaty" an unmistakable agreement will be reached whereby the first tax on imports into China shall be the last and only burden. In the chapter on "Consuls and a Consul System" Mr. Jernigan makes an appeal for the reorganisation of the United States Consular service, and also for a higher scale of payment. He mentions that the annual salary of the British Minister at Peking (\$32,500) is more than half the total salaries of the twenty-seven diplomatic and consular officers of the United States in China. The author is fully justified in describing the salaries paid to the United States officials in China as meagre, and it would be unwise on the part of the United States Government to ignore the ex-Consul General's appeal. The author's views on the

subject will certainly commend themselves to readers in China familiar with the conditions and the advantages of an efficient consular service.

The subject of missionary effort in China, to which the author devotes a chapter, is one which usually creates a controversy, but the critic will not find much in the chapter to dispute. When, however, Mr. Jernigan says that "the opinion that would exclude missionaries from China, or that which discredits their work, cannot do by the right of missionaries to reside in China and pursue their profession," it is open to the opponents of missionary enterprise to retort that this right of missionaries to reside in China and pursue their profession has only been regularised by recent treaties; for it is a fact that inland missions were carried on in China for upwards of forty years under the aegis of a very equivocal transaction when the Franco-Chinese treaty of 1860 was negotiated. A clause was smuggled into the Chinese text only of the treaty, unknown even to its nominal negotiator, Baron Gros. The proceeding has been described as "a fraud, audacious and flagitious," and this description seems to be warranted by the known facts. Though the recent treaties have regularised the proceeding, and the right of the missionaries to reside in China can no longer be denied, it is equally true that there is a considerable body of opinion opposed on political and other grounds to the exercise of that right; but Mr. Jernigan is amply justified in claiming for the missions that they are great civilising agencies, that commerce is indebted to the missionary for many valuable markets, and that the world of literature has benefited by the standard works on China which missionaries have produced.

On the whole the book is one which will serve a useful purpose and should command a good sale.

THE DALLAS COMPANY.

On the 2nd inst., at the Theatre, this Company staged *The Belle of New York* the play which had such a successful run at the Duke of York's Theatre in London. The Company seemed much more at home in this production than in the preceding comedy, *The Runaway Girl*, and the audience testified their approval by repeated calls for encores. Mr. Percival Knight, who has earned a well-deserved popularity during his stay here, was very amusing in the character of the President of an Anti-Cigarette Society, and Miss Alice Wade, who undertook the title-role, filled the part with credit, but her vocal efforts might have been improved upon. The rest of the company supported the central characters in a very able manner. Miss Violet Frampton, as Fifi, being heard to pleasing advantage in the duet "Teach me How to Love," with Mr. Frank Cochrane, as Harry Bronson. The performance will be repeated to-night.

A pleasing item was introduced in the second Act, when Mr. Gandolf Marzullo, of the *Vengeance*, played selections on the violin, exhibiting considerable ability in two Fantasias by Artot and Beriot.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A very fine creeper, *Beaumontia grandiflora*, trained over the deer pen entrance to the new garden, is now opening its flowers. When the majority of the flowers are open they make one of the finest floral displays to be seen at any time in the gardens. The individual flowers are white, about five inches in length, and between three and four inches across, shaped very much like the white lily so common in Hongkong, and are produced in cymes at the ends of the branches. The leaves are opposite, varying in length from seven to twelve inches and about half an inch broad. This fine creeper is a native of the Eastern Himalayas, and has been known in England for nearly a century.

Bauhinia variegata, a native of the East Indies, forms a small tree and is a very conspicuous object when in flower. A specimen may be seen on the east side of the steps just inside the Albany entrance. The flowers are arranged in small terminal corymbs, but as these are abundantly produced and each flower about three

inches in diameter there is no lack of bloom. The general colour of the flowers reminds one of peach-blossom, but the lower petal is variously marked with purple and yellow. To show how this tree revels in producing flowers we may say that seedlings raised from seeds sown at the end of last June are now in flower. The species has been known in Europe for more than two hundred years.

There are many other trees and shrubs, too numerous to mention in these short notes, coming into flower, but we must not forget to say a word or two about the big masses of *Narcissus* now in flower near the Bandstand and under the *Erythrina* at the end of the Grevillea walk. They make a grand show, and the scent from them is delightful.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGO SAN PO."]

THE VICEROY.

Viceroy Shum is a man of little pomp, but great at work. For the most part he depreciates his glorious ostentation. Shortly before China New Year he circulated a note amongst his subordinates ordering that no officer, either civil or military, should visit Canton to offer New Year respects to him. Officers in Canton, moreover, were prohibited from spending money on bands, theatres, and like frivolities. This unusual action most probably gave rise to various rumours to the effect that the Empress Dowager, who was reported ill some days ago, was dead.

A FIRE AT TONG-U-LAN.

A disastrous fire broke out in Tong-U-Lan, West Canton, at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 24th inst. It originated in a dyeing establishment in Ha-Chan-Tong Street. The flames spread rapidly, there being no hose connection in the vicinity, and wells near by for the most part being dry. On an alarm being given native brigades and the Shameen fire engines hurried to render what assistance they could, but the streets were so narrow and crowded that their progress was much delayed. Thieves and vagabonds took the opportunity of plundering wherever "openings" made by the excitement of the moment permitted. The scene of fire was a densely-populated neighbourhood, frequented by the lower class, where there were several gambling and eating-houses, and brothels. Owners of the latter were seen dragging hand-tied women along the street by ropes, fearing that they might be stolen and re-sold to other keepers. Nearly all buildings in the following streets were razed to the ground:—New Tong-U-Lan, Old Tong-U-Lan, Tin-Lo-Hong, Sap-Yee-Kan, Tsat-Kum, Ha-Chan-Tong, and Chan-Tong-Nam. The number of houses completely gutted is estimated at about 350.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 23rd February.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL KILLED BY ROBBERS. News having reached Loongmoon on the 11th instant that a band of robbers were encamped at a neighbouring village, called Sam Liang Wan, the Brigadier-General, or Loongmoon Hui-tai, immediately proceeded there at the head of an expeditionary party. On reaching the village he was informed that the miscreants had left for the next village, called Ping Ngan. He continued the march thither in double haste. The robbers, on the approach of the soldiers, showed a bold front, firing on the troops with such determination that some forty men and the Brigadier-General were killed, and the remainder of the force, being then demoralised, escaped to Yamchow. A telegram was at once despatched to Pakhoi for assistance, and the *An-lan* was despatched to Yamchow, with only a few available men, under the command of the garrison here. The *An-lan* has since returned to this port after landing the few men at Yamchow, and confirmed the news of the disaster which befel the expedition. The Brigadier-General is named Foo Kin Wan, a native of Loongmoon, being specially appointed by the Viceroy of Canton as a fit man for the post only a few months ago.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A POINT OF RACING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 28th February.

A stranger to Hongkong, I went down to the races yesterday and backed Captain Gaunt's mount *Muscotel* for the steeplechase. After jumping the sod wall the second time the favourite came inside everything and with *Muscotel* cantered up the straight. It was obvious neither jockey was in a hurry; one knew he'd gone the wrong course, and the other that he was winning in a canter. I watched the horses unsaddling, and then went to collect my winnings, when I was told that "We only pay first past the post," i.e., they were paying over a horse that had not been the prescribed course.

How far does this rule extend in Hongkong? Because next time it would be worth while to start a pony in a 2-mile race, only send him one, and win in a canter; he would be "first past the post."

I have raced a good deal in many parts of the world and never seen a race of this description. In Australia the judge hoists the numbers as they pass him, and as they come back to weigh a red flag is hoisted outside the weighing room and kept up until the clerk of the scales calls "Right" for the third horse, when it is hauled down, and then, and not till then, is money paid over. Might I suggest that rule to the H.K.J.C.?

Apologising for troubling you—my excuse is I am many dollars out over that and the saddle-cloth incident in the next race.—Yours, sadly,

A. PUNTER.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 2th February.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CHAN A FOOK v. W. NERVEGNA.

A case was called in which Chan A Fook and another sued W. Nervegna and another for the recovery of \$600, interest on 120,000 francs alleged by the defendants to have been transferred to them by E. (this, Italian Delegate on the International Commission of Bankers, Shanghai, at the request of the defendants, Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada a Castro, solicitor), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. Paget Hett, solicitor, of Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton's office), was for the defendants.

Plaintiffs in their statement of claim stated that they were merchants. Defendants were Italian subjects who formerly carried on business under the style of W. Nervegna & Co., and now resided in Hongkong. In November, 1902, plaintiffs commenced an action (211 of 1902) against the defendants in the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. In 1901 defendants had awarded to them a large sum to be paid by the Chinese Government by way of indemnity for losses sustained by the defendants during the Boxer rebellion. This indemnity awarded to the defendants was payable to them by the Italian Government Delegate at the Commission of Bankers in Shanghai and until payment bore interest of 4 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly. On 30th May, 1903, plaintiffs accepted a transfer made on 13th April, 1903 at the request of the defendants by the said Italian Government Delegate of 120,000 francs out of the indemnity due to the defendant as aforesaid in full satisfaction of all claims by them against the defendants and withdrew this action. On or about 1st July, 1903, the Italian Government Delegate paid to the defendants the interest due on the indemnity for the half-year ending 30th June, 1903. The ratable proportion of the interest received by the defendants in respect of the 120,000 francs transferred as aforesaid to the plaintiffs amounted to \$606 0. 28th July, 1903, plaintiffs demanded from defendants payment of the interest received by

he defendants on the 120,000 francs, but defendants had not paid the same or any part of it.

Defendants in their statement of defence said it was agreed between the plaintiffs and the defendants that Action No. 211 of 1903 should be withdrawn by the plaintiffs upon condition of the plaintiffs receiving a document from the Italian Government Delegate at Shanghai which would entitle the plaintiffs to eventually receive bonds to the full value of 120,000 francs, when bonds should be thereafter issued by the Italian Government for the payment of the indemnity. If the said delegate had in fact issued any document to the plaintiffs which conferred or purported to confer or had the legal effect of conferring upon the plaintiffs any present or immediate right to interest on the said sum of 120,000 francs, such document was not issued in such form at the request of the defendants, but on the contrary was issued in such form in defiance of the express instructions upon the subject which were sent by the defendants to the delegate, to which instructions they craved leave to refer. They denied that any apportionment whatever ought to be made in favour of the plaintiffs in respect of interest on the sum of 120,000 francs, either for the whole period or for any portion of the period between 1st January, 1903, and 30th June, 1902. Even if any apportionment were made, defendants did not admit that it would amount to the sum of \$606.

Mr. Slade, in opening plaintiffs' case, produced the document transferring the sum of 120,000 francs to them and submitted that that document transferred the right to the interest as well as the right to the principal as from the date. It was exactly the same as a transfer of shares; no reference to the interest payable on the shares—even when it was a fixed rate—was made in the transfer; when the share was transferred the transferee obtained his interest on them as from the date of the transfer.

Evidence was afterwards taken and the case was adjourned till to-day.

Tuesday, 1st March.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CHAN A FOOK v. W. NERVEGNA.

This case was again called on Tuesday, when after hearing further evidence, His Lordship held that the transfer by the defendants to the plaintiffs of the principal carried with it also the right to the interest, and he accordingly gave judgment for plaintiffs and costs.

The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 2nd March.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHIU CHAN SI v. TANG FAI WOON.

In this case Chiu Chan Si, executrix of the estate of Chiu Tuk Hi, deceased, sued Tang Fai Woon for one-ninth share in the Po Chang firm, 127, Jervois Street.

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. C. E. Beavis, of Messrs Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, (instructed by Mr. J. Piper, of Messrs. Johnston, Stokes and Master), represented the defendant.

Mr. Pollock explained that the matter in dispute was as to whether the executrix of Chiu Tuk Hi, or the defendant was entitled to a one-ninth share in the Po Chang firm. The share originally belonged to a man named Chiu Tuk Hing, brother of the deceased Chiu Tuk Hi, and was one of the original partners of the firm, which started twenty or thirty years ago. Chiu Tuk Hing died somewhere about 1890 or 1891, leaving behind him his wife, Chui Wong Shi, and a son, Chui Kwok Fung, who was about 28 years of age. At the time of his death Chiu Tuk Hing was indebted to the Po Chang firm in the sum of \$1,200. After his death the partners in the Po Chang firm were anxious that the debt should be paid off, and they pressed Chui Kwok Fung, who, as the only son, they regarded as standing in his shoes, for the money. Chui Kwok

Fung ultimately sold to Chui Tuk Hi his father's shares in the Po Chang business for \$2,400. This transfer was made with the consent of the partners of the firm and with the sanction of Chui Wong Shi, the widow. Chui Tuk Hi paid to Chui Kwok Fung \$200 in cash, and took upon himself the liability for the debt of \$2,200. An agreement was made between Chui Kwok Fung and Chui Tuk Hi on April 14, 1892, under which Chui Tuk Hi received a one ninth share in the Po Chang firm on payment of \$2,400. After the transfer of the share, Chui Tuk Hi received over Taels 48 in connection with the share, and afterwards received various payments in goods and money, which were debited against the share. Further hearing was adjourned.

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON
WHARF AND GODOWN
CO. LD.,

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the seventeenth ordinary annual meeting, to be held at the Company's Offices, No. 2, Connaught Road, on the 10th March, at 12.15 p.m.

The Directors have now to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1903.

ACCOUNTS.

The gross revenue derived from wharfage, landing, &c., amounted to \$93,176.80 as against \$823,310.13 the previous year, showing an increase of \$89,866.67, and the profit on working was \$349,386.31 as compared with \$270,140.85 in 1902, being an increase of \$79,245.46.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account, after paying interim dividend of 5 per cent, and including \$14,481.69 brought forward from last year, is \$215,665.41, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditors' fees...	\$ 10,500.00
Final dividend of 5 per cent...	75,000.00
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account ...	35,000.00
Write off wharves ...	20,000.00
„ Railways and rolling stock ...	7,444.24
„ launches ...	6,500.00
„ lighters ...	16,442.74
„ machinery and plant ...	16,762.75
Carry forward to new account...	28,015.68
	\$215,665.41

BUSINESS.

An increasing demand has existed for godown accommodation at Kowloon.

BUILDINGS.

The addition to No. 2 godown, referred to in last report, has been completed, and a contract has been signed for raising No. 3 godown.

WHARVES.

No additions have been made during the year. Part of the West Point wharf is being removed, and the construction of new piers is under consideration.

LIGHTERS.

One cargo boat and three *Kum-sing* boats have been built during the year.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. D. M. Moses and G. H. Medhurst having resigned, their places were taken respectively by Mr. Ed. Shellim and Mr. E. S. Wheeler. These appointments require confirmation.

Mr. H. Schubart and Mr. C. H. Thompson retire in rotation, according to the Articles of Association, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1903.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
To capital (30,000 shares at \$50 fully paid up) ...		1,500,000.00	
To debentures out-standing ...		500,000.00	
To Land Investment Co.—mortgage ...		200,000.00	
To reserve fund ...		250,000.00	
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...		467,770.13	

March 7, 1904.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

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To depreciation and repairs account	50,989.58
To unclaimed dividends	5,341.00
To sundry creditors :-	
Directors' and auditors' fees \$10,500.00	
Final dividend	75,000.00
Accounts payable	178,995.43
	264,495.43
To profit and loss account, balance	28,015.68
	\$3,266,612.12

Cr.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
By value of land and buildings at Kowloon as per last account	2,454,371.50		
By since expended on levelling land and on new buildings	32,977.00		
	2,487,351.50		
By value of wharves at Kowloon as per last account	100,000.00		
Less written off	20,000.00		
	80,000.00		
By value of railways and rolling stock at Kowloon as per last account	70,000.00		
Since expended on new rails, &c.	2,444.24		
	72,444.24		
Less written off	7,444.24		
	65,000.00		
By value of launches as per last account	33,000.00		
Less written off	6,500.00		
	26,500.00		
By value of lighters as per last account	100,000.00		
Since expended on new lighters, &c.	6,442.74		
	106,442.74		
Less written off	16,442.74		
	90,000.00		
By value of machinery and plant as per last account	60,000.00		
Since expended on new machinery	6,762.75		
	66,762.75		
Less written off	16,762.75		
	50,000.00		
By value of sheer legs as per last account	3,000.00		
By value of land at West Point (39,062 sq. feet at \$4) as per last account	156,250.00		
By value of buildings at West Point as per last account	106,893.98		
By sundry debtors	121,135.41		
By Hongkong Bank (unclaimed dividends)	5,341.00		
By cash in hand	632.13		
By value of coal on hand	7,792.02		
By value of timber, iron and stores on hand	66,716.18		
	\$3,266,612.12		

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To wages of permanent staff	242,773.32	
To Crown rent	11,786.02	
To taxes	19,203.64	
To charges (office and telephone rent, stationery and printing, commission, sundries, &c.)	23,189.49	
To legal expenses	957.00	
To fire insurance	7,276.75	
To claims on cargo	1,263.52	
To expenses on cargo and coal, coolie hire, launches, lighters, &c.	237,340.75	
To balance to profit and loss account	349,386.31	
	\$893,176.80	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To interest	73,565.09	
To interim dividend	75,000.00	
To balance appropriated as follows :-		
Directors' and auditors' fees	\$10,500.00	
Final dividend	75,000.00	
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	35,000.00	
Amount written off :-		
Wharves	20,000.00	
Railways and rolling stock	7,444.24	
Launches	6,500.00	
Lighters	16,442.74	
Machinery and plant	16,762.75	
Amount carried to new account	28,015.68	
	215,665.4	

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last account	14,481.69	
By transfer from working account, 1903	349,386.31	
By unclaimed dividends forfeited	267.50	
By transfer fees	95.0	
	\$364,230.5	

DEPRECIATION AND REPAIRS ACCOUNT.	\$	c.
Dr.		
To repairs, renewals and improvements during 1903	35,459.14	
To balance	50,989.58	
	\$86,448.72	
Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last account	51,448.72	
By transfer from profit and loss account	35,000.00	
	\$86,448.72	

RESERVE FUND.

Dr.	\$	c.
To balance	250,000.00	
Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last account	250,000.00	

PORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press 4th March.)

One has only to look out of window to realise that the present season for sport in Hongkong is drawing to its close. The misty and moist aspect of everything portends the coming of the rains, when Hongkong cricketers, footballers, etc., lapse into inactivity. Cricket finishes this month, and football will soon follow its example, though the playing-off of Shield ties may prolong the season. Other field sports will similarly die away until the coming of next autumn revives them. Casual visitors to Hongkong are wont to express surprise that we play no cricket here in the summer, as in warmer places than this the game is played all through the summer. But, of course, with us it is chiefly the rainy season which stops cricket. We might, I think, with advantage start cricket a little earlier regularly at the beginning of October, as we did last year for the special purpose of selecting an Interport team. October weather is more suitable for cricket in Hongkong than that of March. As the Cricket League has proved such a success in this, its first season, and promises to develop, there need be no lack of matches. The only question is whether the Cricket Ground and the Happy Valley pitches will stand more wear. Certainly some queer wickets have been seen of late.

The principal cricket match to-day will be that between the H.K.C.C. and the Navy, which is timed to begin on the Cricket Ground at 11.30 - "w. p." I suppose we must now add. The Club, with its still unbeaten record for this season, lacks now of course the help of W. C. D. Turner, whom we all hope to see receiving a trial for Essex this summer.

The League matches for to-day are the H.K.C.C. Reserves v. the Parsees, and the Civil Service C.C. v. Royal Engineers. The order in the League table is now as follows, a win counting 3 points, and a draw :- A.O.C., 39 points; Civil Service, 28; Craigengower, 23; H.K.C.C. Reserves and R.E., 8; R.A.M.C., 7; Parsees and Tamar.

The H.K.A.F.C., their interest in the Shield competition being gone, have to solace themselves with friendly games, one against the V.R.C. being played to-day. I wonder that it has not occurred to our football authorities to institute a league tournament for the permanent teams here in addition to the Shield, which is open to the fleet as well as to Hongkong clubs. A good entry could, no doubt be got - say, the H.K.A.F.C., V.R.C., the Sherwoods (or whatever regiment may be here), the Naval Yard, R.A., and R.E. On American tournament lines, this would mean 10 matches for each club. Such a competition would provide far more interesting games than any "friendlies," and would not interfere with the Shield. The league winners would be entitled to be considered champions of Hongkong for the season.

The Hockey Cup competition was continued yesterday, when the 110th Mahrattas met the 92nd Burmas (2nd team) in the 2nd round. The result was a draw (2 goals all one penalty goal being lost by the Burmas.) On Monday next the Hockey Club, now out of the Cup, play a friendly against H.M.S. *Blenheim*, and on Wednesday they meet H.M.S. *Vengeance*.

It is likely that the German Club will issue a challenge to the Hongkong Club for another match for the Challenge Shield very soon. If the Germans lose this time, the Shield goes to their opponents outright; but they are reported in very good form, and the success of their second team in the recent match should encourage them a lot. It is sure to be a great struggle, whatever the result.

The boxing on Tuesday next promises to be well worth watching. The international affair, St. Clair of Brooklyn v. Morgan of the *Vengeance*, is being much discussed in local boxing circles. I have not seen Morgan, but he has the reputation of being a sterling middleweight. St. Clair's cleverness is undeniable, and it will take a very good man to beat him.

England's great victory in the fourth test match in Australia, which gives the mother-country the rubber before the last game has been played, was not achieved without a certain amount of luck, it must be confessed. England's 207 for 7 wickets on the opening day went a very long way toward the win, as rain seems to have ruined the wicket on the third day, after England had added 42 runs on the second and Australia had lost 5 men for 114. The Australians after the rain could only put on 17 for their remaining 5 wickets, and play being fairly even in the second innings England's margin increased from 118 to 157. The fifth game was to start to-day, at Melbourne. Whether it will be postponed until Monday owing to the undue protraction of the Sydney match (which should have concluded on the 1st instant) I cannot say. Not so much interest attaches to it, now that England has won three games. It may be remarked that England had the best of luck in all three. But as a similar run of luck favoured the Australians during their last tour in England, this is only fair. Warner's team has only lost one match up to date - the third game v. Australia.

England's win at Rugby football against Ireland at Blackheath on the 13th ult. seems to have been due to splendid forwards and the brilliance of Vivyan, the Devonport Albion three-quarter. A margin of 2 goals and 3 tries is very satisfactory. Up to this game the two countries won alternately during four seasons, prior to which Ireland enjoyed four consecutive victories. Altogether England has won seventeen, lost seven, and drawn one, the unfinished match occurring twenty-two years ago. It was not until just before the dispute in 1888 that Ireland won their first victory after eleven defeats. Then came five more wins for the Rose, but from 1894 England have been successful only four times, though scoring ten goals, twelve tries, against ten goals, eight tries.

As is known, it is proposed to have a county cricket competition on cup-tie lines this summer in England. The prospects, however, do not look brilliant, for when the entries reached the hon. secretary, on the 30th January, it was found that the following counties had sent in :- Gloucestershire, Sussex, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Hampshire. The absence of nearly all the best counties must ruin the scheme.

OMPAX.

During the week ended 27th February there were five cases of enteric fever. There were no fatalities. The patients comprised three Europeans (two imported) and two Japanese. During the same period there were two cases of small-pox, both Chinese and both fatal. No other cases of communicable disease were reported.

On the 1st inst. the Opium Farm entered upon the new lease Mr. G. Hogarth, late of the Sanitary Department, took over the duties of Chief Excise Officer in succession to Mr. J. J. Spooner, with Mr. Chua Bang Chan as Assistant Officer. Mr. Chua Bang Chan acted as Pros-enting Agent in the Opium and Spirit Farm at Singapore from 1898 till 1900. The chop of the Opium Farm now is the Chin Joo Heng Co.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB RACE MEETING.

OFF-DAY.

The Hongkong Jockey Club's 1904 meeting concluded on the 27th ult., racing being conducted in the afternoon. On the second day's racing, it will be remembered, the Pals' Dandy broke his fetlock while racing for the Phaethon Stakes, and had to be shot in consequence. Curiously enough, the most serious accident to a jockey occurred on the off-day, when Mr. Johnstone, with a broken collar-bone, brought Rex home first in a steeplechase for the Tally Ho Cup. Rex had been jumping well all along till in the vicinity of the Black Rock, second time round, when he fell. Mr. Johnstone, up in an instant, recovered lost ground, riding home amid applause. Great was the surprise when it was learned that Mr. Johnstone had sustained a broken collar-bone, and dislocated his shoulder. He was attended, in the jockeys' room, by Sir Frederick Treves, Surgeon to His Majesty the King, and Dr. Atkinson, being finally carried off in an ambulance. Mr. Johnstone, on Ben Roy, also carried off the first event, the "Rose" Cup. Mr. Crighton brought Pandur home in the John Peel Cup. Once More, with Mr. Moller up, took off the "Lucky" Cup. Mr. Master again added laurels to his reputation by winning three races in succession. Nothing, barring the unfortunate accident, marred the day's sport, weather being glorious, and attendance fair. The band of the Sherwood Foresters, under Bandmaster E. J. Bradley, played the following selections:—

March..... "Militaire"..... Gounod
Overture... *Les Trois Mousquetaires*... Blanchman
Selection... *Three Little Maids*..... Rubens
Valse..... "Morgenblaster"..... Strauss
Selection... "H.M.S. Pinafore"..... Sullivan
Valse..... "Lu-tige Bruder"..... Vollstedt
Selection... *San Toy*..... Jones
Two Step... "Hiawatha"..... Moret

Results were:—

THE "ROSE" CUP.—Presented. For all beaten subscription griffins. Weight for inches as per scale. Un-placed ponies allowed 5lbs. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. Three-Quarters of a Mile.

Mr. C. H. Ross's Ben Roy, 11st 1lb	...	1
(Mr. Johnstone)		
Mr. Tremearne's Fun, 11st 1lb (Mr. Mackie)	2	
Major Radcliff's Arranapogue, 10st 12lbs	...	3
(Mr. Clarke)		
Mr. D. Macdonald's The Provost, 10st 13lbs	...	0
(Mr. Crighton)		
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Teetotum, 10st 1lb	...	0
(Mr. Schnorr)		
† Mr. Medico's Culex, 11st (Mr. Millward)	0	
* Mr. Lola's Colonist, 1st 13lb (Mr. Bell)	0	
* Mr. E. S. Joseph's Bunder, 10st 10lbs	...	0
(Mr. Gillingham)		
* Capt. Nugent & Mr. Dowding's Snark, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Dowding)	0	
Mr. E. H. Hinds's Bonzoline, 10st 12lbs	...	0
(Mr. Knox)		
Mr. Armand's Modesty, 10st 12lbs	...	0
(Mr. Gegg)		
† H.E. Mr. F. H. May's Blue Skin, 10st 13lbs (Mr. Gedge)	0	
†† Mr. J. H. Lewis's Mongoose, 10st 11lbs	...	0
(Mr. Rutherford)		
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Alarm, 10st 4lbs	...	0
(Mr. Alderton)		

* 5lbs overweight. † 2lbs overweight.
† 6lbs overweight. †† 7lbs overweight.

A good start. Ben Roy challenged the leader at the Black Rock and continued to lead to the finish, winning by a length or so. Fun was second; Arranapogue a good third.

Time, 1 min. 36 4/5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$9.30 winner; \$6.10 first place; \$17.70 second; \$9.10 third.

THE JOHN PEEL CUP.—Presented. For all beaten China ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Placed ponies to carry 5lbs extra. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. One mile.

Mr. G. H. Potts's Pandur, 11st 6lbs	...	1
(Mr. Crighton)		
Mr. Kanuck's Once More, 10st 13lbs	...	2
(Mr. Johnstone)		
Mr. Wheelrut's Protection, 10st 10lbs	...	3
(Mr. Schnorr)		

The ponies set off with Pandur having a fair lead, increased towards the Black Rock. At the village the trio rode neck-and-neck, Pandur again going ahead in the straight, and winning easily. Once More was second, Protection third.

Time, 2 min. 12 2-5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$8.30 winner; \$7.40 place.

THE TALLY HO CUP.—Steeplechase. Value \$200, for all China Ponies. Weight 11st From the Grand Stand twice round and In Cup to go to the rider. Five to start or no race. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony.

Mr. John Peel's Rex (Mr. Johnstone)	1
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Muscatel, 6lbs over	...
(Mr. Gaunt)	2
Mr. Cleugh's The Crow	...
(Mr. Knox)	3
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Starling (Mr. Alderton)	0
Mr. ———'s Digby Grand, 6lbs over	...
(Mr. Rutherford)	0

Mr. C. H. Ross's Ben Roy... (Mr. Crighton) 0
Mr. John Peel's Havers... (Mr. Clarke) 0
Ben Roy became unmanageable after a false start, going away with his rider and breaking down the first hurdle. Rex got away at the start, followed closely by The Crow; both these ponies proved themselves excellent jumpers. At the Black Rock Havers threw his rider, Mr. Clarke, and, after galloping around the outside track, returned by himself to the stable. Passing the stand for the first time The Crow was a little ahead of Rex; Muscatel was third. Towards the Black Rock, second time around, The Crow and Rex both fell, but their riders managed them well, Rex, particularly, losing very little time. Rex came in first as he liked; Muscatel was second, The Crow third.

The Pari-mutuel paid. \$7.70 winner; \$5.80 first place; \$8.60 second; \$11.40 third.

THE "LUCKY" CUP.—Presented. For all beaten griffins at this meeting. Weight for inches as per scale. A pony that has run second in any race to carry 5lbs extra. Third in any race 3lb extra. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. Once round.

Mr. Kanuck's Once More, 11st 1lb	...	0
(Mr. Moller)		
* Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Chieftain, 1st 3lbs	...	2
(Mr. Crighton)		
† Mr. J. H. Lewis's Regret, 10st 13lbs	...	3
(Mr. Rutherford)		
Mr. D. Macdonald's The Elder, 10st 14lbs	...	0
(Mr. Clarke)		

* 6lbs overweight. † 5lbs overweight.
Chieftain started off with a lead. Towards the football pavilion the ponies lined out in the following procession:—Chieftain, Regret, The Elder, Once More. The Elder challenged and passed Regret for second place up the hill. Chieftain continued to lead. Once More took third and then second place towards the village. In the straight Once More overtook Chieftain, winning handsomely by half a length. Regret was third.

Time, 1 min. 58 3-5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$30.60 winner; \$7 first place; \$5.30 second.

THE VISITORS CUP.—Presented. Value \$250. For China ponies that have run at this meeting and have not won a race. Weight for inches as per scale. Old ponies to carry 7lbs extra. Subscription griffins allowed 3lbs. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. Five furlongs.

* Mr. Darius's Talbot, 10st 10lbs	...	1
(Mr. Master)		
** Mr. John Peel's Royal, 10st 11lbs	...	2
(Mr. Crighton)		
Mr. Tremearne's Fun, 10st 12lbs	...	3
(Mr. Mackie)		
* Mr. Wingard's Quebec, 11st 2lbs	...	0
(Mr. Moller)		
Mr. Domnich's Growler, 10st 7lbs	...	0
(Mr. Gillingham)		
Mr. G. B. Macdonald's Go Bang, 10st 4lbs	...	0
(Mr. Black)		
† Mr. J. H. Lewis's Alarm, 10st 2lbs	...	0
(Mr. Alderton)		
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Teetotum, 9st 12lbs	...	0
† Mr. E. H. Hind's Hazard, 10st 10lbs	...	0
(Mr. Makins)		
Mr. E. A. Bonner's Clifton, 10st 10lbs	...	0
(Mr. Rutherford)		
†† H.E. Mr. F. H. May's Yellow Skin, 10st 13lbs (Mr. Gedge)	0	

* 3lbs overweight. † 6lbs overweight.

** 2lbs overweight. †† 9lbs overweight.

Teetotum made the running up the hill. At the village Talbot, Royal, and Fun outpaced the leader and had a most exciting race in the straight. Mr. Master, on Talbot, won by half-a-length. Royal, second, was a short head in front of Fun.

Time, 1 min. 16 2-5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$15 winner; \$6.50 first place; \$6 second; \$12.30 third.

THE "FISCAL" CUP.—Presented. For beaten subscription griffins of this season. Weight for inches as per scale. Placed ponies 5lbs extra. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Meifoo's Standard, 11st 6lb (Mr. Master)	1
Mr. Darius's Eclipse, 11st 6lbs (Mr. Alderton)	2
Messrs. Craig and R.A.G.'s Combine, 11st 4lb (Mr. Moller)	3
Mr. D. Macdonald's The Bailie, 10st 12lb	...
(Mr. Clarke)	0
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Sentry, 11st 1lb (Mr. Rutherford)	0
Mr. Wheelrut's Fair Trade, 10st 12lb (Mr. Schnorr)	0
Mr. A. Babington's Rocket, 11st 6lb (Mr. Crighton)	0
Mr. A. Babington's Turbine, 11st 1lb (Mr. Makins)	0
Mr. Hart Buck's Herschell II, 10st 9lbs (Mr. Mackie)	0
Mr. W. Domnich's Kid, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Gillingham)	0

Rocket made the running for Standard as far as the rock, when Mr. Master took the lead and Rocket fell back. Standard won hands down some three lengths ahead of the field. Eclipse was second; Combine third.

Time, 2 min. 45 1-5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$8.40 winner; \$5.60 first place; \$8.30 second; \$8.10 third.

THE "CORONET" CUP.—Presented. For all beaten China ponies that have run at this meeting. Griffins allowed 5lbs. Subscription griffins allowed 7lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. From the 2 Mile Post once round and in.

Mr. G. H. Potts's Rebel King, 11st 1lb	...	1
(Mr. Master)		
Mr. Wheelrut's Protection, 10st 10lb	...	2
(Mr. Schnorr)		
Mr. Medico's Culex, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Millward)	3	

Rebel King started off ahead, making the running for Culex. Up the hill Protection took the second place, and Rebel King left the field behind. Mr. Master romped home without whipping or any exertion. Culex was a bad second, with Protection a head or so behind.

Time, 2 min. 25 2-5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$5.80 winner; \$6.70 place.

WINNING STABLES.

The following is the list of winning stables at the Race Meeting just completed:—

Stables.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Mr. Buxey	10	2	4
Mr. John Peel	7	9	4
The Pals	2	1	5
Mr. G. H. Potts	2	1	3
Mr. F. B. Marshall	2	1	1
Mr. G. C. C. Master	2	1	—
Mr. Paul	2	1	—
Mr. Meifoo	1	3	—
Mr. Johnstone	1	2	—
Mr. Darius	1	2	1
Mr. Kanuck	1	2	—
Mr. J. H. Lewis	1	1	4
Mr. Dowding	1	1	—
Mr. V. Apar...	1	—	—
Mr. Fernando	1	—	—
Mr. C. H. Ross	1	—	1
Mr. Wingard	—	5	1
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie	—	3	†
Mr. Tremearne	—	1	2
Mr. Wheelrut	—	1	1
Mr. Medico	—	1	1
Major Radcliff	—	—	2
Mr. Cleugh	—	—	1
Messrs. Craig and R. A. G.	—	—	1
Mr. Armand	—	—	1
Mr. A. Babington	—	—	1

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 26th ult. in the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General; Mr. Lau Chun Pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Colonel W. E. Webb, A.M.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn; Dr. W. W. Pearse, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. B. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary) and Mr. T. A. Hamner (Assistant Secretary).

DRAINAGE.

Mr. RUMJAHN put the following questions to the President:—

1.—Will the President be good enough to lay on the table the drainage plans of Nos. 46 to 60, Caine Road (eight houses), situate on Section A of Inland Lot No. 424, Nos. 27 to 37, Des Vœux Road Central (six houses), situate on the Southern Portion of Reclamation of Marine Lot 10a, and Nos. 18 to 23, Connaught Road Central (six houses), situate on the Northern Portion of Marine Lot 10a?

2.—Will the President be pleased to direct the Sanitary Surveyor to inform the Board in writing of the advantages and disadvantages of the system introduced by him or adopted with his consent into the houses in Des Vœux Road Central and Caine Road?

3.—Will the President be pleased to direct the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report on the drainage system as introduced into the houses in Des Vœux Road and Caine Road from a hygienic and public health point of view?

The PRESIDENT stated that the plans referred to in the first question would be laid on the table.

The Sanitary Surveyor (Mr. J. J. Bryn) answered:—

The drainage of both these blocks of property has been designed with a view of preventing an excessive amount of rain water from entering the sewers, and of diverting it to the storm water drains. In the block in Caine Road each yard is provided with two trapped inlets to an underground drain; these two inlets receive the waste waters from the bath rooms and kitchens. Through the centre of the yards runs a surface channel which is intended to take the rain water from one half of the roofs of the houses, the other half being taken down the front of the houses by rain water pipes which discharge into the Government side channel in Caine Road. This surface channel has a trap fixed at its lower end, to intercept any sullage water that may find its way into the channel. This trap is connected to the sewer and the channel is connected to this trap and discharges into the Government side channel in Caine Road. The rain water from the servants' quarters is carried off by the surface channel in the lane at rear. In the case of the Des Vœux Road block the sullage water from kitchen and bath rooms is brought into an underground drain, which runs down the lane, between the two blocks of houses, and is connected with the sewer in Douglas Street. Half the rain water from the roofs of houses in Connaught Road is conducted into the yards, and carried off by surface channels into a main surface channel laid in the lane. The dry weather flow of this channel is interrupted from this storm water drain. The level of the yards of houses in Des Vœux Road did not permit of the rain water being taken into the lane, so a surface channel was laid through the yards. Any sullage water which may get into this channel is intercepted by a trap fixed in the yard of the west end house, and the storm overflow is connected to the Government channel in Douglas Street. The advantages of this system are:—a minimum quantity of storm water is taken into the sewers and the sullage water is prevented from entering the storm water drains. Provided that the tenants do not misuse the system I do not think it has any disadvantages.

Dr. PEARSE, replying to the third question, said he was prepared to grant that the drainage system in these blocks had certain disadvantages.

Certainly a nuisance was created by the filthy water of one tenement passing through the yard of the next. But the nuisance was really caused, as the Sanitary Surveyor had pointed out, by the negligence of the tenants themselves. The surface channel was only intended to take off the rain water and a minimum quantity of sullage water. But the Surveyor had to contend with extreme difficulties with regard to the levels of the yards and lanes, and therefore he did not think the Surveyor was at all to blame for the nuisance which had arisen. In some such case the only possible way of draining was to take the surface channel through the yard into the storm water channel. In cases where the scavenging lane was higher in level than the yard of the house there were several ways in which the Surveyor could get over the difficulty. He might put a trap in the yard, lay a surface channel from one house to the other, or have an underground drain. An underground drain however necessitated a trap in every yard, big enough to take off the maximum of storm water and small enough to be self-cleansing in the dry season. But every such trap would be, so to speak, a cesspool, and it was not a good thing to multiply traps; in the dry weather a certain amount of sullage water would get into the traps. On the whole he did not think that such a system of drainage by underground pipe or sewer would be more sanitary than the present system. In the dry weather it would be found that the flow of running water from the yard would not be sufficient to properly cleanse such a drain. He did not think the Surveyor was at all to blame for adopting this system of surface drainage. The nuisance had arisen because the people themselves were negligent. In several cases the gratings which had been put up in the channel leading from one house to another had been broken or removed so as to enable the tenants to sweep their dirty water into their neighbours' yard.

At the request of Mr. Rumjahn, it was agreed that the replies to his question should be circulated.

GENERAL CLEANSING.

The Medical Officer of Health reported that the general cleansing of the Colony was completed on the 8th inst. In all, 31,226 floors were cleansed.

The President minuted:—"This is very satisfactory. I understand that the cleansing has been again resumed in Health Districts 9 and 11 under the supervision of the special plague staff?"

Dr. Pearse:—"Yes; 1,222 floors in H. D. 9 and 10 have been cleansed again."

The President:—"This re-cleansing might be extended to the other Health Districts, at any rate until plague becomes prevalent."

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted:—"Continue cleansing."

Mr. A. Rumjahn:—"Very satisfactory indeed. What has the whole general cleansing cost, and what was the total cost of fumigation in 1902?"

The Secretary:—"General cleansing—1903. 64. \$6122.99; 1901-02, \$81,352.80."

Hon. Mr. Pollock:—"Continue cleansing."

The PRESIDENT stated that the re-cleansing was being continued.

RATS.

During the fortnight ended 22nd inst. 411 rats were killed; of these 18 were found to be infected.

This was all the important public business.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

Two circumstances combined to cause the somewhat poor attendance at the concert, the first of a series, which was held in St. Andrew's Hall on the 5th instant. The first was the fact that the Dallas Company were giving their final performance of the season, in the Theatre Royal, and the second was that the clouds, which had been lowering all day, began to drop down a dreary drizzle, which soon made everything out of doors unpleasantly damp, while chairs were at a premium. But these disadvantages notwithstanding, this first concert must be pronounced an unqualified success, for which Messrs. G. Grimbé and A. G. Ward, accompanists and conductors, deserve all praise.

The concert opened in good time, and for once there was little disturbance by late arrivals. The first part opened with a part song by the full force of the Society of 21 voices. This piece was excellently rendered, but for a slight tendency on the part of the sopranos to be just a shade too loud, thus, to a certain extent, overshadowing the blending of the other voices. This was specially noticeable in the second verse, otherwise the song was given with all the well-known careful interpretation of the Society. The next item was a quintette for flute, violins, viola, cello and pianoforte, which was very well expressed by Mrs. Ough, Messrs. Chopard, Gonzales, Grimbé, Miller and Schmidt. The song "Life," by Mr. W. E. Schmidt, whose splendid voice was heard to the best advantage, secured an instantaneous *encore*, though *encores* were not responded to in the first part. One of the gems of the evening was Mrs. Carl Johnson's (of Amoy) delivery of her song "Song of a heart," her beautiful contralto voice reminding us very much of that of the late Madame Antoinette Sterling, ringing out and expressing every cadence with consummate grace and taste. This lady ought certainly to be heard again in Hongkong. The violin solo "Romance" of Mrs. Ough needs but little mention, as her finished execution and skill are too well known here for us to say more than that she fully maintained her reputation as a commander of the bow. The part song "Orpheus and his lute" brought the first part to a close, and here again the chorus was in complete touch with its leader, the sopranos paying closer attention to the marks. The second part, after an interval of ten minutes, opened with trio for violin, cello and pianoforte, Mrs. Ough, and Messrs. Grimbé rendering well a somewhat lengthy selection from Mendelssohn. This was followed by the Chorus in the Glee "When Allan-a-Dale went a hunting," which was a very good selection and earned rounds of applause, being quite the best chorus of the evening, as was manifest from a tendency on the part of some of the audience to join the refrain. Mr. Schmidt was again pleasing in "I had a flower," and was forced to respond to an *encore*. Another gem of the evening followed in the pianoforte solos of Madame Candutti, who is a charming, unaffected pianist, and a perfect artiste in her complete command over the keys, the music seemingly, rippling from her finger-tips. Her selections were "Barcarolle" by Rubinstein, and "Valse" by Labadie, for which she received an undeniable *encore*, to which she gracefully responded with some operatic selections. We hope to hear more from this charming performer's hands. Mrs. Carl Johnson then brought the solos to a close with "Ever so far away," in which she again maintained her high standard of rendering, but was unable to respond to an urgent call for more.

The concert was closed by the chorus, who sent the audience away in happy mood, after their "Cradle Song," to seek the "soft and dreamless sleep" sung of in the final item, while Mr. Ward played "God Save the King."

Among those present were H.E. Mr. F. H. May, Mrs. May, and a party from Government House.

The following formed the Chorus, who, with Messrs. Ward and Grimbé, deserve hearty congratulations upon the brilliant success achieved:—Sopranos: Mesdames Murray Bair, Bell, Hagen, Johnson, and Beth. Contraltos: Lady Goodran; Mesdames Dickson, Drayson, Goodman, C. Goodman, and Siebs. Tenors: Sir W. M. Goodman; Messrs. Dow, Edwards, Parker, and White. Basses: Messrs. Beavis, Crofton, L. Lammert, Terrill, and Wacker.

The Shanghai *Sinwénpao* states that a despatch has been received from North Chinchou reporting that a body of five hundred Chinese "Mounted Bandits," enrolled by the Russian authorities, while stationed at Dalny broke out into open mutiny the other day upon receipt of news of Russian reverses at Port Arthur and began plundering the town. This created a panic amongst the Russians in Dalny and would have ended seriously for them had not the leader of the Bandits been bought off by the Russians and a promise made to give a monthly sum of \$1,500 to the Bandits if they would keep quiet.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., was held on the 5th inst. at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Pedder Street. Hon. C. W. Dickson presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. J. H. Lewis, F. Maitland, A. J. Raymond (directors); F. D. Goddard, J. R. Michael, S. J. Michael, W. Parlano, Ho Fook, G. McK. R. ss, G. H. Potts, J. J. Leiria, Captain W. E. Clarke, R. C. Wilcox, T. Arnold, H. C. Gotla, P. Tester, and G. T. Veitch (secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will adopt the usual custom, and take the report and accounts, which have been in your possession since the 19th February, as read. The final outturn of the 1902 account is disappointing. Since our last meeting fires have been numerous, and the balance at credit of working account on 31st December 1902, \$299,299.15, is reduced to \$195,396.52, somewhat less than last year. We propose dealing with this amount in the manner stated in the report, viz:—paying a dividend of \$22.50 per share, which will absorb \$180,000, and adding the balance, \$15,396.52, to the reserve fund, which will then stand at \$1,170,288.88, and I trust this appropriation meets with your approval. As regards the 1903 account, you will be pleased to note that the balance on 31st December is in excess of that for the past ten years. Since the accounts were made up losses estimated at about \$29,000 have been incurred. I trust, however, the year's risks will run off with not more than an average of losses, and that at our next meeting we shall be able to present you with a more favourable showing than to-day. You will notice in the accounts an item under the headings:—"Japanese Government Deposit." This represents the equivalent of 100,000 yen demanded by the Japanese Government from all insurance companies doing business in that country. We had either to comply with that demand, or retire; we decided to continue our business there, and have deposited the requisite sum with the Government. Since the several bonds were purchased, they have, owing to the war, which unhappily is now going on, somewhat depreciated in value, and it may be necessary to provide for this depreciation in the 1903 account. I do not know of anything I can usefully add, but shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be asked.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts be adopted.

Mr. T. ARNOLD seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-election of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. F. Maitland, A. J. Raymond, and J. H. Lewis to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. WILCOX seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and R. C. Wilcox were re-elected auditors on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Captain CLARKE.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business; dividend warrants will be ready on Monday and I would ask you to apply at the office for them, as we find that when sent through the Post Office they frequently miscarry.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LD.

The following is the report of the above company for the year ending 31st December, 1903:—

The net profit for the year amounts to \$31,071.27, to which has to be added \$8,096.68 brought forward from last year's account. After payment of directors and auditor, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 15 per cent., or \$22,500 to shareholders; to transfer to reserve fund \$5,000; and to carry forward \$10,517.95 to next year's account.

The works have been fully employed during the year, and the machinery and launches are in good order.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. W. Parlano resigned on his leaving the Colony last May. Mr. Hart Buck was invited to join the board in his place; he now resigns as he is leaving the Colony shortly, and Mr. W. Parlano has consented to re-join the board. This appointment requires to be confirmed at the meeting.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

NAVAL FUNERAL AT HONGKONG.

Carpenter Sneller, of H.M.S. *Glory*, was buried with Naval honours at Happy Valley on the 5th instant, the funeral being a most impressive one. As it passed down to the burial ground when numerous spectators were watching various games on the recreation fields, quite a large number of civilians followed to the cemetery. Order of procession was as follows:—A Naval officer, marines from the *Glory*, band of H.M.S. *Leviathan*; a gun's crew, dragging along a gun-carriage on which was placed the coffin; the mourners (blue-jackets, with officers bringing up the rear); and finally civilians. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was surmounted with some very handsome wreaths of flowers; a sailor carried another, which was encased in a glass frame. Marching to the grave-yard in this procession, marines with their rifles sloping downward, and the band playing the funeral march to the slow beat of the big drum, one could not help being impressed. On arriving at the entrance of the cemetery, the marines lined out to allow the coffin and procession to pass, and the band stopped playing. When at the grave, Mr. Gordon-Vaudin, chaplain of the *Glory*, proceeded with the ceremony, the sailors joining in such familiar words as those of the Lord's Prayer. To finish up three volleys were fired into the air, between bugle calls. Included in the officers present were Captain the Rt. Hon. W. G. Stopford, Commander Hopwood, and Lieutenants Rymer, Kingston, and Hardy. They wore full dress (cocked-hats); midshipmen, white cap-covers. Returning home the band played music as they marched.

The deceased came out to China recently on H.M.S. *King Alfred*, and was transferred to the *Glory*. He died on Thursday night, having, it is supposed, fallen from a balcony in the Naval Canteen. The body was discovered lifeless, head lying in a pool of blood, at 4 a.m. last Friday, by a policeman on patrol. The deceased, it appears, had engaged a room at the Canteen for the night. When discovered he was minus hat and coat, which were afterwards found in his bed-room. It seems that he must have fallen over the verandah on the second story. As telegraph and telephone wires were damaged, he, presumably, came in contact with them. At the mortuary it was discovered that he had a broken arm and fractured skull.

GYMKHANA MEETINGS IN 1904.

On the 1st inst. a meeting of those interested in racing was held in the offices of the P. & O. S.N. Co., for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a Gymkhana Club to hold races during the off season, the suggestion being to hold a meeting once a month on Saturday afternoons from April to October, with a possible intermission during July and August. Mr. J. H. Lewis presided, and there were also present Messrs. E. W. Mitchell, P. C. Potts, C. P. Chater, J. A. Woodgates, J. R. Michael, Hart Buck, W. F. Clarke, G. H. Potts, D. Macdonald, F. H. Lyon, T. S. Forrest, G. C. C. Master, W. R. Robertson, N. H. Rutherford, and E. V. D. Parr, Lieutenant Dowding, R.A., and Mr. F. B. Deacon.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. F. B. Deacon was appointed secretary of the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN in a short introductory speech said that some years ago there was a Gymkhana Club, and for two or three seasons they had most excellent meetings during the summer months. There was no earthly reason why they should not continue to have these meetings, now they had more riders and the whole auspices were better. It only required the support of the sportsmen of the Colony to

secure good sport and provide entertainment for the general community of Hongkong.

Mr. HART BUCK suggested that before the meeting decided upon anything they should be assured of the permission of the Stewards of the Jockey Club to use their ground and enclosure for the proposed Gymkhanas.

The CHAIRMAN replied that of course the Gymkhanas could only be carried out with the consent of the stewards.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. GODFREY MASTER the following rules and regulations were passed:—

1. The name of the Club shall be the 'Hongkong Gymkhana Club.'

2. The objects of the Club are to promote racing and amusements at the Happy Valley during the Off Season.

3. No person shall be a Member of the Club unless he is a Member of the Hongkong Jockey Club.

4. All Members of the Hongkong Jockey Club shall be eligible for election without ballot.

5. The Rules and Regulations of the Hongkong Jockey Club shall *mutatis mutandis* be the Rules and Regulations of this Club with such additional Rules as may be hereafter drawn up and passed by the Members.

6. The annual Subscription shall be \$10.

7. No person, unless he is a Member of this Club, shall be eligible to ride or run at any Gymkhana Meeting.

8. No presentation prize shall be above the value of \$50.

9. The general management of the Club and the management of all Gymkhana Meetings shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the Stewards of the Jockey Club as *ex officio* members and not less than five other persons who shall be elected annually by ballot.

10. General Meetings of the Club shall be held once every month (at the Grand Stand subject to the permission of the Stewards of the Jockey Club) at which the programme for the next Gymkhana meeting shall be submitted.

11. The number of Gymkhana Meetings to be held each season shall not exceed five.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. J. R. MICHAEL, it was agreed that Mr. F. B. Deacon be appointed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. HART BUCK suggested that they write to the Stewards of the Jockey Club asking them for the use of the course and enclosure.

The CHAIRMAN said this would be done in due course; it was understood that the holding of these Gymkhanas was subject to the consent of the Jockey Club.

The meeting was brought to an end with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. V. THE NAVY.

The Club looked like spoiling the unbeaten record of the present season on the 5th inst. when a strong team from the warships in harbour was encountered. Time, however, did not allow a definite finish, and the home eleven left off with 78 runs to make and 4 wickets to fall. The Navy thus had considerably the better of the match. This was due mainly to the batting of Moore, supported by Horsey, Irwin, and Mahon, and to the breakdown of some of Hongkong's test bats before fair bowling. Turner's batting was sadly missed by the Club. R. Hancock alone showed ability to cope with the situation, and he unfortunately put his leg before the wicket when he had made 43. The drawing of stumps relieved the Club of no little anxiety. Scores and analysis:—

THE NAVY.	
Com. F. L. Horsey, b J. T. Dixon	33
B. H. Irwin, c J. T. Dixon, b Heath	22
Lt. G. W. Vivian, c J. T. Dixon, b Heath	8
Eng.-Lt. G. Moore (capt.), c Davies, b J. T. Dixon	62
Lt. W. M. Lapage, b J. T. Dixon	0
M. C. Williams, b J. T. Dixon	0
F. H. Batcheelor, b J. T. Dixon	0
Eng.-Lt. V. de Paris, b Chichester	13
Lt. Norfolk, b Davies	7
Lt. R. F. H. Mahon, not out	34
Staff Paymaster A. Wilson, st Ponsonby, b Smith	4
Extras	10

Total1

H.K.C.C.	
Lt. Heath, c Horsey, b Vivian	18
R. Hancock, l.b.w., b Mahon	43
Major Chichester, b Horsey	8
H. Hancock, b Horsey	1
J. T. Dixon, c Williams, b Mahon	10
Capt. E. G. Davies, A.O.D., c Batchelor, b Norfolk	16
T. Sercombe Smith, not out	1
A. R. Lowe, not out	1
Extras	8
Total (6 wickets)	115

W. Dixon, A. Mackenzie, and R. Ponsonby did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE NAVY.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. Hancock	4	1	14	—
Sercombe Smith	8	3	22	1
Mackenzie	4	—	9	—
Heath	10	2	34	2
J. T. Dixon	14	2	68	5
Chichester	6	—	27	1
Davies	2	—	9	1
H.K.C.C.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Vivian	9	2	33	1
Horsey	14	2	42	2
Mahon	7	3	14	2
Williams	5	—	14	—
Norfolk	4	2	8	1

Horsey bowled one wide.

CIVIL SERVICE C.C. V. ROYAL ENGINEERS.

This League match, played at Happy Valley on Saturday last, ended in favour of the Civil Service. The R.E. were one man short. Scores and analysis:—

CIVIL SERVICE C.C.	
Hon. Dr. Atkinson, c and b Raven	12
G. A. Woodcock, c Weaser, b Raven	4
R. A. Wittchell, c Wilkie, b Raven	24
P. T. Lamble, not out	9
H. T. Jackman, l.b.w., b Raven	0
J. Lander, b Weaser	2
H. J. Gidley, c Jackson, b Weaser	2
W. H. Woolley, c Jackson, b Weaser	0
Extras	7
Total (7 wickets)	60

L. E. Brett, F. T. Robins, and W. Pitt did not bat.

ROYAL ENGINEERS.	
Tillman, b Lamble	0
Smith, c Dr. Atkinson, b Lamble	19
Meldrum, c and b Lamble	4
Raven, c Gidley, b Lamble	9
Weaser, b Lamble	0
Jackson, not out	10
Rodaway, st Robins, b Lamble	0
Callaghan, b Wittchell	1
Nettleton, b Wittchell	0
Wilkie, c Brett, b Wittchell	1
Extras	0
Total	35

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

CIVIL SERVICE C.C.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Raven	9	2	18	4
Meldrum	4	-	19	-
Weaser	5	-	16	3
ROYAL ENGINEERS.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lamble	6	1	22	6
Jackman	4	-	13	-
Witchell	13	1	-	3

After the match a very interesting ceremony took place in the New Pavilion of the Civil Service Cricket Club, Mr. Wheel being presented with a gold pendent match-box, and a silver flask with suitable inscriptions, for the valuable services he has rendered to the Club as steward. The presentation was made by the Hon. Dr. Atkinson, who spoke in very high terms of the services rendered to the Club by Mr. Wheel.

Mr. Wheel, although claiming to be better as a steward than an orator, made a very suitable speech in reply.

Mr. Wheel is an old and respected servant of the Public Works Department, and starts for home on leave in the course of a few days. He was a shining light in the cricket world in his younger days, and has occasionally given a glimpse of his old form, and will be greatly missed by the Civil Service Cricket Club.

Enrique Webb, a young man of mixed Spanish and English blood, and of excellent family, was arrested by the detective bureau in Manila on the charge of stealing \$3552, gold, worth of coal, the property of F. C. Calder and Company, on the 24th ult.

FOOTBALL.

H.M.S. "LEVIATHAN" v R.A.

The above, a Shield match, was played on the Club Ground at Happy Valley on the 29th ult. The sailors kicked off, Kinch and Bell dribbling down the left wing. After the ball had been sent behind for a second time the soldiers, having the advantage of a good goal-kick, commenced an attack. Smith, R.A., made a good shot, but not the goal post. The Blues then brought the ball back, Oldham and Hall doing some good work. The soldiers again attacked, a shot by Wilks from the right wing going wide. Hall passed to Oldham on the Naval right wing, the latter shooting a good goal. Not very long afterwards another was scored by Brown from the other side; and still another by Bell from the centre. While there was quite a little group around the R.A. posts, a fourth goal was added by Hutchings, who put the ball into the net off his head. Bell again scored by a fairly long shot from centre. The sailors continued to play a pretty game, though the soldiers, if anything, seemed to improve somewhat. Copper, R.A., shot well, but a shade high. After some more or less give-and-take play Browning, R.A., shot from the left wing, hitting the post. At half-time the score was:—H.M.S. *Leviathan*, 5; R.A., nil. On the restart the Navy were again aggressive, Hutchings shooting from the right wing, but hitting the crossbar. A corner was next given by the Navy goal; Browning sent the ball behind. The *Leviathan* once more passed up field, Bell finishing the run with a goal from close quarters. Hutchings added No. 7 much in the same manner. A penalty was given against the sailors, and Gibling scored the first goal for the R.A., while Copper scored a second goal for them shortly before "time." A poor game resulted:—H.M.S. *Leviathan*, 7; R.A., 2.

RUGBY.

In this match, played in the Happy Valley on the 27th ult., under Rugby rules, the Club were victorious by a margin of 3 points. The *Albion* winning the toss decided to play with the wind, Sandford of the Club kicking off. The Navy men promptly sent the ball back and into touch, afterwards doing some pretty passing in the Club half. Within a very short time Blackwood (*Albion*) got clean away with the ball and scored a try, which was converted. The Club, now on their mettle, played up gamely, but failed to score. The visitors eventually got under way again, and pressed hard. The half-time whistle afforded the Club relief. The score then was H.M.S. *Albion* 1 goal (5 points); H.K.F.C. nil. After the restart the *Albion* again assumed the aggressive. Pearce (Club) secured the ball, and had a fine run down the Navy half. Warren, however, outpaced him and successfully tackled him; but the ground gained placed the Club team in an advantageous position, and Goldring (who made a welcome reappearance in the Club pack on Saturday) got away neatly, and, though he had a nasty collision with the goal-post, scored a try; it was unconverted. Pearce himself was the next player to score, afterwards converting his own try. The result of a very good game was:—H.K.F.C., 1 goal 1 try (8 points); H.M.S. *Albion*, 1 goal (5 points).

The teams were:—

Club:—H. Arthur, full-back; R. A. Whitmore, T. E. Pearce, Lieut. Cameron, R.A., and J. Thomas, three-quarters; J. P. Jordan and F. G. Cavanagh, halves; H. C. Sandford (capt), E. P. Hallifax, P. W. Goldring, E. D. C. Wolfe, H. E. Rowley, Lieut. Strover, R.A., Lieut. Duncan, R.A., and H. F. Chard, forwards.

H.M.S. *Albion*:—Warren, full-back; Royal, Sinaart, Mitford, and McLeod, three-quarters; Blackwood and Child, halves; Boyle, Roe, Hughes, Boxer, Danby, Mawbey, Hardman-Jones, and Layard, forwards.

H.K.F.C. v V.R.C.

Played in the Happy Valley on the 5th inst. this match ended in a win for the H.K.F.C. Hongkong winning the toss, the V.R.C. kicked off, Bonnar almost immediately making a run up the centre, which was repulsed by the defenders. Hongkong again attacked, and Williams had a fair chance for shooting from

the right wing; Humphreys forced him to kick into touch. The V.R.C. recovered ground somewhat, but Cooper got away up the right wing and shot. Crake stopped the ball, and, also, shortly afterwards stopped a shot by Bonnar. Eventually Williams put the ball into net from close quarters. The V.R.C. made a determined effort to equalise, Marti doing some good work; he shot just a little wide. A collision between Kew and Forbes gave a foul against the V.R.C. After some more or less even play Cooper shot wide. Bonnar and Williams shot in succession, the ball being fielded each time. A little later, Williams dribbled up the right wing but, after receiving a good pass back from another player, was prevented from shooting by Forbes. The V.R.C. advanced, H. W. Sayer shooting wide. H. C. Sayer next had a shot, the ball going over. The V.R.C. lost some good chances of making headway in their left wing, and Hongkong went forward. Wicheil had hard lines on the left wing, and the V.R.C. got away. Marti put one in, but Hickling was "at home." Then after Cooper had skilfully avoided two opponents, he shot wide. Rutherford from the centre also met the same fate. Coombes got away amid cheering; he was successfully met by Hickling. At half time the score was:—H.K.F.C., 1; V.R.C., 0. On the restart Austen played well at back, passing to Williams; a goal-kick for the V.R.C., however, resulted. Cooper shot a second goal for Hongkong, things seeming very black for the V.R.C.; they continued to play a fair game, though a losing one, against their more practised opponents. A corner was given near the Club goal. Shortly afterwards a foul fell to Hongkong, Coombes being the culprit. The V.R.C., after hard work, were in a good way for scoring; but nothing came of it. Cooper got away, passing to Williams, who, in turn, passed to Brent. Williams put in a good shot, but Crake was there. Brent had equal ill luck. Marti, after some fair play in the right wing, passed to Pearce, who shot wide. Kew finally scored a third goal for the Club, and the score was:—H.K.F.C., 3; V.R.C., 0.

Teams as follows:—

H.K.F.C.:—C. H. Hickling, goal; H. C. Austen and V. F. Aucott, backs; H. C. Gray, C. T. Kew, and G. P. de Martin, halves; W. H. Williams, C. R. S. Cooper, N. H. Rutherford, J. W. C. Bonnar, and H. A. Brent, forwards.

V.R.C.:—W. A. Crake, goal; J. Wicheil and E. Humphreys, backs; H. C. Sayer, H. S. Holmes, and J. Forbes, halves; A. Marti, Hamblin, Coombes, Pearce, and H. W. Sayer, forwards.

SALE OF PONIES.

AN AUCTION IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

Between 40 and 50 ponies were sold by public roup opposite the City Hall in Queen's Road Central on the 2nd inst. afternoon, the auction being conducted by Mr. T. F. Hough, of Messrs. Hughes and Hough (auctioneers). The fact that Manila afforded a good market for China ponies had an influence on the bidding, the prices in many instances being very fair. Among those sold were Manila, the winner of the Chinese Club Cup; Standard, the winner of the "Fiscal" Cup, and second in the Spring Stakes, Chautauqua, winner of the Wong-nei-chong Stakes, second in the "Blake" Challenge Cup, and third in the Spring Stakes; Eclipse, second in the Chinese Club Cup, and second in the "Fiscal" Cup; Modesty, third in the Lusitano Cup; H.E. Mr. May's Blue Skin and Yellow Skin, and many others with familiar names. Results of the sale were as follows:—

Neddy (China pony) \$20, Mr. Ah Fook.
Dunayagne (China pony) \$65, Mr. Cheong.
Dormouse (China pony) \$105, Mr. Seth.
Colonist (China pony) \$110, Mr. Wood.
Quebec (Griffin) \$90, Mr. Smith.
Doris Castle (Griffin; not raced) \$170, Mr. Gegg.
Combine (Sub. Griffin; not raced) \$50, Mr. J. Lysaught.
Persistence \$90, Mr. McIntyre.
A chestnut country-bred mare \$140, Mr. Cheong.
Protection China pony) \$85, Mr. J. Lysaught.

Retaliation (China pony) \$65, Mr. Chang Wah.
 Fair Trade (China pony) \$65, Mr. Gegg.
 Manila (China pony) \$210, Mr. Forest.
 Waisenkhabe (China pony) \$50, Mr. J. Lysaught.
 Zufall (China pony) \$100, Mr. Patterson.
 Pech (China pony) \$90, Mr. W. G. Clarke.
 The Elder (China pony) \$65, Mr. Ah Fook.
 The Baillie (China pony) \$105, Mr. Wood.
 Blue Skin (China pony) \$75, Mr. Clarke.
 Yellow Skin (China pony) \$120, Mr. Gegg.
 Spero (White Griffin) \$90, Mr. Cheong.
 Standard (Dun Griffin) \$175, Mr. Clarke.
 Modesty (Chestnut Griffin) \$55, Mr. Heckford.
 Powder Puff (Grey Griffin) \$140, Mr. Tooker.
 Chautauqua \$205, Mr. Cooper.
 Sioux (late Primo) \$80, Mr. Chow Kong Foo.
 Casadagua \$65, Mr. Lysaught.
 Arranapogue \$165, Mr. Gaskell.
 Mabokilbui \$60, Mr. Lysaught.
 Butcher Boy (Waler gelding) \$95, Mr. J. Ross.
 Kitty (Waler mare) \$340, Mr. Brutton.
 Snippet (small Yunnan pony) \$55, Mr. Ellis Kadoorie.
 Talbot (China pony) \$75, Mr. J. Lysaught.
 Eclipse (China pony) \$110, Mr. W. Ingles.
 Sirius (China Griffin) \$85, Mr. J. Lysaught.
 Turbine \$100, Mr. Rutherford.
 Videlicet (China pony) \$75, Mr. J. Lysaught.
 Growler (China pony) \$8, The China Import & Export Banking Co.
 Lancer (Arab) \$60, Mr. Carlowitz.
 Alarm \$65, Dr. Tien Ting.
 Sentry \$70, Mr. J. Lysaught.
 Regret \$85, Mr. Lee King Tong.

V.R.C. ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The Victoria Recreation Club hold their Athletic Sports on the 4th April, at the Hongkong Football Club ground, Happy Valley, under the law of the A. A. Association and open to all gentlemen amateurs who are members, or visitors, of the Hongkong Club, Club Germania, Lusitano, Cricket, Taikoo, Bowling, Hongkong Boat, and Victoria Recreation Clubs.

An entrance fee of \$1 for each event, or a \$9 general entry fee will be charged. Entries close on Monday, 28th inst.

The full list of events is as follows:—

1. Long Jump.
2. Throwing the Cricket Ball.
3. High Jump.
4. 120 yards Flat Race (Handicap).
5. Bicycle Race. 1 mile. (Handicap).
6. 100 yards Flat Race.
7. Tug-of-War—8 men a-side—open to Non-Commissioned officers and men of Army and Police (Indian). Each Regiment or Corps may enter one team only.
8. Bicycle Race. 2 miles. (Handicap).
9. Half-mile Flat Race.
10. Sack Race.
11. 120 yards Hurdle Race, 10 Flights.
12. 220 yards Flat Race (Handicap).
13. Three-legged Race, 100 yards.
14. Tug-of-War—8 men a-side—open to Non-Commissioned Officers and men of Army, Navy and Police, each Ship, Regiment or Corps may enter one team only.
15. 120 yards Veterans' Race (Handicap).
16. One mile Flat Race (Handicap).
17. Bicycle Race. 3 miles. (Handicap).
18. Half-mile Flat Race, open to soldiers, sailors, and Police.
19. 440 yards Flat Race. (Challenge Cup).
20. Obstacle Race.
21. Consolation Race.

A scratch rowing race will be held about the end of April—date not yet fixed.

After a three days' trial at Singapore the appeals of Mr. A. F. G. Tilleke, and his Burman clerk, Mong On, against the sentences of 6 months' and 1 year's imprisonment respectively for receiving stolen property, in the Bangkok jewelry case, as fully reported in these columns, were upheld, the verdict of the lower Court being reversed. It was held that there had been no evidence adduced of receiving, within the meaning of the law, and there were no grounds for a conviction.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

THE 93RD BURMA INFANTRY.

These sports were held at the Parade Ground, Kowloon, on the 26th ult. the occasion being favoured by glorious weather. Officers for the sports were:—Lieut.-Col. R. G. Iremonger, president; Capt. S. R. Stevens, Lieut. W. H. Simpson, Jemadar Madat Khan, and Jemadar Kerpai Singh, executive committee; Lieut. B. E. Morgan, and Subadar Indian Isar Singh, Judges; Capt. S. R. Stevens, time-keeper; Lieut. H. W. F. Ricketts, starter. The course, on the red-sand ground, was marked out with chalk and pegged flags; there were four laps to a mile. The scene altogether was most picturesque, and unlike what one would expect in these parts. Numerous little tents, mats, etc., gave the scene quite a camping-out appearance, while the Indian spectators in their spotless white or vari-coloured turbans and costumes might have constituted a pilgrimage to Mecca. The principal stands were nicely set off with pot-flowers. The Colonel and officers entertained all their friends most hospitably in Sir Paul Chater's Bungalow, and during the afternoon the band of the regiment played the following selections:—
 March..... "Constellation"..... Clark
 Overture..... "Stradella"..... Flotow
 Selection..... *The Toreador*..... Ivan Caryll
 Characteristic Piece "A Dervish Chorus" Sebok
 Selection..... *Three Little Maids*..... Rubens
 Waltz..... "Valse des Fleurs"..... Tschalkowsky
 Serenade..... "Love in Idleness"..... Macbeth
 Dance..... "Hungarian"..... Brahms
 The pipers of the 93rd also contributed to the music.

Results were:—

LONG JUMP.—There were five entries for this event. Indar Singh won the first prize, his jump being 18 ft. 5 in. Harnam Singh second; Labh Singh third.

QUARTER MILE.—Recruits only. Five recruits faced the starter. Shan Singh, first; Bishan Singh, second; Sadhu Singh, third. Time, 1 min. 2 2/5 secs.

HALF MILE.—Indar Singh scratch; Jodh Singh, 20 yds.; remainder 40 yds. There were eight starters. Bagh Shah was an easy first, Indar Singh, in spite of his being scratch, came in second; Ganga Singh was third. Indar Singh covered the distance in 2 min. 9 secs.

PUTTING THE SHOT.—Sher Singh (31 ft. 6 in.) first; Wariam Singh second; Prem Singh third. 100 YARDS.—Final.—Indar Singh scratch; Narain Singh two yards. A good field started. Narain Singh was first; Mihan Singh second, Muhammad Abdul third. Time 11 1/5 secs.

HALF MILE.—Open to Native troops and police. Eight or nine started. Mihan Singh came in first (2 min. 2 1/2 secs.); Ismail second; Sucha Singh third. All the places were taken by the police, the 110th Mahratta Light Infantry and the 114th Mahrattas not having a look in. The 93rd Burma Infantry did not compete, though their men had done much better time in the third event.

QUARTER MILE.—Indar Singh scratch; Narain Singh five yards; remainder ten yards. Seven started. Great amusement was caused by a cow running down the track to meet the competitors, hotly pursued by the starter. Mihan Singh had a good lead till within a short distance from home, when Indar Singh, the scratch man, challenged and passed him. Narain Singh, the 5-yard man, was third. Time 57 secs.

HIGH JUMP.—Natha Singh 3 inches. There were six competitors. Natha Singh won this event, his jump being 4 ft. 11 in.

HALF-MILE.—Open to non-commissioned officers and men of His Majesty's Navy and Army (British Corps). Nine men faced the starter. Longman, 80th Co. R.G.A., was first; Catterall, 78th Co. R.G.A., second; Wood, 78th Co. R.G.A., third. Time, 2 min. 21 secs.

ONE MILE.—Indar Singh scratch; Jodh Singh 40 yds; remainder 80 yds. Bagh Shah was first; Jodh Singh second; Mal Singh. Time from 80 yds. mark, 4 min. 52 secs.

100 YDS.—Open to officers of the Fleet and Garrison (two prizes). Three ran. Surgeon Woodyatt, H.M.S. *Vengeance*, came in first. Mr. Royal, H.M.S. *Albion*, second. Time, 10 3/5 secs.

RELAY RACE.—One Mile.—One team per Company. A team consisted of four men,

each of whom had to run a quarter mile. The first quarter mile was run by one of each team who, on completing his quarter mile, handed on a flag to the next member of the team. The team whose fourth runner reached the winning post first was adjudged the winners. A big field, and an interesting race. C. Company was first, E. Company was second. Time, 4 min. 1 sec.

At the conclusion Mrs. Iremonger distributed the prizes, mostly monetary. A very pleasant function terminated with "God Save The King."

HONGKONG.

The Chinese gunboat *Chento*, Capt. Tse Kow Ying, arrived from Canton on the 29th ult.

H.M.S. *Ocean*, *Cressy*, and *Centurion* left on the 29th ult. for Mirs Bay, and the gunboat *Fearless* for Weihaiwei.

Lieutenant J. D. Danby, H.K.V.C., has been granted leave of absence for twelve months from the 3rd March.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Messrs G. N. Orme and A. G. M. Fletcher, cadets, have passed their examinations in Chinese.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. E. C. Wilks has been authorised to survey the boilers on unlicensed steamers not exceeding sixty tons.

Some thirty-four members of the medical profession entertained Sir Frederick Treves to a dinner at the Hongkong Hotel on the 3rd inst.

Royal sanction has been given to the alteration of the title of the Hongkong-Singapore Battalion of Royal Artillery to Hongkong-Singapore Battalion of Royal Garrison Artillery.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 28th February, 1904, were 193 non-Chinese and 61 Chinese to the former, and 45 non-Chinese and 5,475 Chinese to the latter institution.

H.M.S. *Amphitrite* arrived from Mirs Bay at 10 a.m. on the 3rd inst. There were no other arrivals or departures of warships yesterday. Admiral Grenet, who has come to take command of the Italian China Squadron, arrived by the German mail.

The China Merchants' s.s. *King Ping* arrived from Canton on the 3rd inst. Capt. Symons reports that he passed through Hongkong without stopping on the 28th ult. with 1,400 soldiers. They are supposed to be bound for the West River and Kwangsi.

Admiral Grenet, of the Italian Navy, arrived here by the German mail on the 2nd inst., to take over command of the Italian China Squadron. Admiral Grenet has been Naval *attaché* at London, and was out here five years ago in command of the China Squadron, having been stationed in Far Eastern waters for over a year. He was recalled just before the Boxer outbreak, leaving but one Italian war-ship behind. Had he been at Tientsin with his five ships he could have landed 1,500 men, and placed them at the disposal of Admiral Seymour, who was unable to underman his ships to such an extent as to leave them unfit for fighting. Italy, on the other hand, has little interests out here, while her mercantile marine to be defended in Far Eastern waters is insignificant. When our representative visited Chev. Volpicelli, the Italian Consul, yesterday afternoon he opined that it was a great pity the Admiral was recalled at that time; events, of course, could not be foreseen.

Sir Frederick Treves, of whose intended visit here mention has already appeared in the *Daily Press*, arrived in Hongkong, accompanied by Lady Treves, by the English mail, the P. & O. s.s. *Coromandel*, on the 27th ult. He was just in time to see the conclusion of the Hongkong Jockey Club's meeting, and incidentally to assist in ministering to Mr. Johnstone after his unfortunate accident. Upward of half-a-hundred members of the medical profession at Hongkong have subscribed to entertain this distinguished visitor to Hongkong at a dinner. It is said that Sir Frederick is going to visit hospitals here, and make reports on the military hospitals. Sir Frederick Treves's recent tour through India was partly on business, for being a member of the Army Medical Board he visited the hospitals and saw what the Army Medical Department at India was like.

The revised list of Justices of the Peace is published in the *Gazette*.

Mr. N. Post has resumed charge of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate in Hongkong.

H. M. twin-screw first class cruiser *Leviathan*, Captain the Hon. Walter G. Stopford, returned from Mirs Bay on the 6th inst.

The appointments are notified in the *Gazette* of the Hon. Gershom Stewart as a member of the Medical Board; and of Mr. J. Orange as a Member of the Authorised Architects' Committee.

H. M. twin-screw sloop *Algerine*, Commander Rowland Nugent, arrived from Singapore on the 6th inst., having left that port on the 23rd ult. She experienced moderate, overcast weather.

The resignation by Messrs. H. H. J. Gompertz and Bruce Shepherd of their posts as President and Member of the New Territory Land Court is notified in the *Gazette*; as is the appointment of Messrs. C. McL. Messer and J. R. Wood as Members of that Court.

The following returns of the average amount of banknotes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during February are certified by the managers of the respective Banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.....	3,497,153	2,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.....	16,983,514	9,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited.....	420,741	150,000
Total.....	\$20,901,410	11,650,000

A meeting of H.M. Justices of the Peace was held on the 1st inst. afternoon at the Magistracy for consideration of an application by Mr. A. Moir, licensee of the Peak Hotel, to have the licence transferred to Mr. George L. Duncan. The presiding Justice was Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Police Magistrate, and the other Justices present were Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Acting Police Magistrate; Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; and Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Chief Clerk of the Magistracy. There were no police objections, and the transfer was granted unanimously.

It will be remembered that a fancy pigeon show was recently held at the Kowloon Hotel, when Mr. A. Nicholson, of the Cosmopolitan Dock, acted as judge. There was a fine display representing some very good types—34 entries in all. Included in the competitors were Mrs. and Miss Logan, and Messrs. J. Roberts, J. W. Osborne, F. Hamlin, Archibald, David, Hand, J. C. Logan, T. Logan, G. W. Kynoch, and Sommerville. Mr. J. Roberts secured a first prize for a very handsome black pouter cocks M. J. C. Logan coming second with a grey hen, and Mr. Kynoch third. A splashed pouter cock, owned by Mr. T. Logan, and a bird belonging to Mr. Hand were highly commended. In the Jacobin class the first prize fell to Miss Logan for a pair of red pigeons; other birds belonging to the same lady, received degrees of merit. Miss Logan received another first prize for a pair of red owls (African); a blue owl (English) was highly commended, as also was a bird coming under the heading of twibits.

Notwithstanding that the Philharmonic Society were giving a concert in St. Andrew's Hall, the Dallas Company were again favoured with a crowded house in the Theatre Royal on the 5th inst., when they brought a most successful season to a close by a second performance of *The Messenger Boy*. Throughout the Company's season the bookings have been exceptionally good, and on Saturday evening, as at some of the previous performances, scarcely a vacant seat was to be seen. The acting in *The Messenger Boy* was uniformly good, and the audience extremely enthusiastic. The title rôle was capably taken by Mr. Percival Knight, and Miss Grace Desmond, as Tommy's mother, was an equally good impersonation. In the second act Miss Blanche Garbette played a selection on the violin which proved her to be a skilful executant, and she was recalled again and again. At the fall of the curtain there was a vigorous outburst of applause by way of saying farewell to the Company, who are proceeding to Shanghai. It is probable that on their way south they will again occupy the stage at the theatre for a few nights.

The Dallas Company and H.M.S. *Glory* had a pleasant game of cricket and tea-party on the field, at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon. The *Glory* won.

As will have been seen from advertisement the Amateur Dramatic Club will give repeat performances of Gilbert's comedy *His Excellency* on Friday and Saturday, 11th and 12th inst. Several new features will be introduced, including a dance by the Governor and Nanna, a country dance, etc.

Quite a number of warships have left Hongkong at the beginning of the week. The *Cressy* and *Ocean* left on the 1st inst. while next day's departures numbered four, viz.: *Leviathan*, *Fearless*, *Centurion*, and the Austrian cruiser *Kaiserin Elizabeth*. The latter, it will be remembered, arrived from Batavia on Saturday; she has proceeded north. The *Fearless* is bound for Weihaiwei, and the *Leviathan* and *Centurion* for Mirs Bay. It is very hard to say, of course, whether the latter two will return shortly, or be ordered north.

The final ball of a successful series given by the Masonic Quadrille Club took place in the Masonic Hall in Ice House Street on the 5th inst. the function but adding laurels to those already won by the President, Mr. H. W. Wolfe, and the committee, among whom were Messrs. J. Sibbett, F. Robins, W. Higley, J. Gast, E. Day, J. A. Wheel, H. Jewitt, F. Stokes, J. Hawkes, W. Hills, E. R. Udall, A. P. Goodwin, the M.C.'s being Messrs. W. E. Smith, H. J. McCaffery, and C. N. Parkinson; G. J. W. King, ex-secretary, and Messrs. W. F. Hunt, R. E. and W. E. Smith, R. E., who had all worked hard to make the last ball of the season the unqualified success it proved. The rooms had been very gaily decorated with palms, ferns, flags, and flowers, the verandahs being turned into veritable bowers, affording delightful resting-places for the light trippers in the giddy mazes of the waltz, and other light fantastic evolutions, and was ablaze with Japanese lanterns. The rooms had all been very elegantly arranged as bouoirs for the ladies, and cloak-rooms for the hardier sex, while an excellent supper, to which full justice was done, was laid out in the library, the tables being most tastefully arranged. It was veritably and indeed, in the "wee sma' hours" of the twal that the company reluctantly dispersed, and then only on account of certain significant actions on the part of the lighting apparatus!

MISCELLANEOUS.

The two battleships recently contracted for in England by Japan are to be named *Katori* and *Kashima*.

Mr. C. E. St. G. Caulfeild, Director of Works Malay States, has been made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

Sub-Lieutenant R. L. Jermain has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in His Majesty's Fleet, for services during the operations in North China in 1900.

The appointment is notified in the *Gazette* of Mr. E. E. Hallifax as Acting Captain Superintendent of Police on the departure of Capt. F. W. Lyons on leave of absence.

Mr. J. P. Joaquim, a well-known Federated Malay States lawyer, died at Kuala Lumpur on the 16th ult. He succumbed to an acute affection of the lungs.

The new Japanese Consul at Singapore, Mr. Tokichi Tanaka, arrived from Japan on the 22nd ult. Mr. Tanaka has previously been Vice-Consul at New York.

The Siamese Government have notified the Banks that the Government selling rate for ticals is now 16.67 to the pound sterling. This corresponds to a dollar at 2/-.

Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., the new Governor of the Straits Settlements, hopes to leave England towards the end of this month to take up the duties of his new post.

Mr. Donald Macgregor, deputy foreman in the Temperate House, Royal Gardens, Kew, Surrey, has been appointed superintendent of the Parks and Open Spaces at Shanghai. He passed through Hongkong on the *Coromandel*.

A circular was issued at Calcutta calling a great meeting of Hindus on the Maidan on the 14th ult. to pray for the success of Japan. A similar circular on the occasion of the death of the late Queen Victoria resulted in a gathering of over a hundred thousand people.

A Russian torpedo-boat, in passing the Canal, collided with and sank an Egyptian Revenue cutter. It is expected the Canal will be blocked for 24 hours.

It is stated that 2,000 additional troops are going to Malta; it is supposed with a view to proceeding to China in the event of necessity arising.

Mr. Morgan Phillips, who for a short while transferred his allegiance from Shanghai to Hongkong, has rejoined the firm of Drummond and White-Cooper in Shanghai.

The Egyptian Government decided, on the 12th February, that belligerents were not allowed to escort prizes through the Canal. It is presumed that this contributed to the release of the colliers.

The leave granted to Governor Truppel of Kiaochau has been, for the time being, cancelled. Captain van Semmers, who was appointed Acting Governor, has been transferred to the Naval Office at Berlin.

We are informed by the Manager of the local office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha that the *Kanagawa Maru*, which left London on the 9th January, arrived at Malta on the 7th February, and there transferred her passengers for the Far East into the P. & O. steamer, *Palawan*.

Shanghai reports the *N. C. Daily News*, is shortly to have a paper in which Russian victories and Russian ideals will be given that prominence which it is affirmed they have not yet received. The new journal, which is to be entitled *Shanghai Truth*, is expected to make its appearance about the beginning of this month. It will be issued daily, and in order that it may be generally understood, will be printed in English. Our contemporary does not give the names of the staff, but numberless suggestions might be made.

We regret to hear from Singapore of the death there on the 18th ult. of Mr. H. Copeland, chief engineer of the R.M.S. *Suisang* (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.). The cause of death was the bursting of a blood-vessel. Mr. Copeland was a young man, an Australian. He had been about seven years with the company, and two years chief. He was well-known in Hongkong, and was highly respected by his employers as a capable and hard-working officer. Mr. Copeland was in excellent health when the *Suisang* sailed from Hongkong.

Count von Waldersee is dead. This intelligence regret in China, where the late Count had himself known in the time of the Boxer troubles. Field Marshal Count von Waldersee was born in 1832. He entered the Prussian Army in 1850, and served in the campaigns of 1866 and 1870. During the Franco-German War he acted as *aide de camp* to the King of Prussia, and was present as a staff officer at the battles of Gravelotte, Borny, and Sedan. In 1871 he was appointed German *Chargé d'Affaires* in Paris; while some 17 years later he acted as chief of the Prussian staff. In 1891 he commanded the 9th Army Corps, and he was appointed Inspector-General of the Third Army in 1898. He was appointed to the command of the Allied Forces in China in 1901, but arrived too late to take much part in the campaign. In fact he was not a great success in the post, but personally he inspired respect.—ED. D.P.]

A correspondent writes with reference to our leading article of Saturday that most readers of Mr. Hancock's book on Japan will surely be astonished when they come upon the statement that "in consequence of the physical exercises (i.e. *jiu-jitsu*) practised by them the Japanese have become the healthiest, the strongest, and the happiest men and women in the world." "As a matter of fact," writes our correspondent, "it can hardly be claimed that *jiu-jitsu* is any more a national exercise in Japan than is wrestling in England. Very few Japanese are trained in the science, and it is a well ascertained fact that the physique of the Japanese has been rapidly deteriorating with the growth of industrial conditions, and the almost universal disregard of physical exercises. A study of the statistics of the Army recruiting office will be convincing on this point. If I mistake not, the Government of Japan for some five or six years past has annually voted a sum of money for the encouragement of western physical exercises—cricket, baseball, football, rowing, &c.—among the youth of the country in order to improve their physique."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

The export was apportioned among the shipping as follows:—

	lbs.
7 Dodwell & Co., Ltd. New York Lime	4,565,728
9 Glens	3,224,350
5 German Mails	2,616,559
15 P. & O.'s	2,024,780
11 O. S. S. Co. & C. M. S. N. Co. Ltd	1,618,410
2 India Line	1,102,810
2 America Asiatic Steam N. Co.	1,013,500
5 Hamburg-America Line	1,010,611
2 Russian Volunteer Fleet Steamers	354,377
1 Bens	115,962
Sundry Steamers for transshipment in Hongkong	1,516,645
59	19,388,772

Foochow, February 12th.—The Foochow season is now finished.—

	1903-4	1902-3
Europe	10,616,041 lbs.	8,771,036 lbs.
South America	155,037 "	"
Australia & N.Z.	1,597,940 "	1,138,697 "
United States and	"	"
Canada	9,453,303 "	11,229,821 "
South Africa	590,500 "	1,016,422 "
Coast Southward	2,875,633 "	3,353,468 "
" Northward	7,360,151 "	5,373,735 "

In 1901-02 the total export was 31,561,780 lbs and in 1902-01 it was 40,342,284 lbs.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, in their Circular, dated 25th of February, state:—The home markets are quiet. Raw Silk—Since our last circular dated February 11th, business has been practically suspended owing to Chin New Year holidays. Gold Kiling, which opened after the holidays at 480, has since advanced to 505, the market closing firm.

SUGAR.

The "Kobe Market Report" of the 16th February has the following with reference to the sugar market:—Hongkong Refined.—Exchange being against operations, there is practically no business to report. Under the influence of the advanced rates of Osaka Refined, prices are, however, firm. Beet.—Since the 11th instant the duty on Russian has been raised from £08271 to £1601 per 100 kin. Prices in consequence have advanced considerably. The demand, however, has been interfered with by transportation facilities having been temporarily monopolized by the Government. There are only very small stocks of German and American left, and quotations are merely nominal. Osaka Refined.—At auction on the 3rd instant 10,000 bags were sold at advances over last sale of from 20 sen to 39 sen.

Hongkong 4th March.—There is no change in the prices as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.65 to \$8.70 pels.
Do. " 2, White	7.65 to 7.70 "
Do. " 1, Brown	5.80 to 5.85 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.55 to 8.60 "
Do. " 2, White	7.60 to 7.65 "
Do. " 1, Brown	4.90 to 4.95 "
Do. " 2, Brown	4.70 to 4.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.80 to 12.85 "
Shekloong	10.70 to 10.75 "

RICE.

HONGKONG 4th March.—The downward tendency continues, market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.15 to \$3.20
" Round, good quality	3.70 to 3.75
" Long	3.90 to 3.95
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.65 to 3.70
" Garden, " No. 1	3.80 to 3.85
" White,	4.40 to 4.45
" Fine Cargo	4.60 to 4.65

OPIUM.

4th March.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New	\$900 to \$920 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$950 to \$970 do.
Malwa Older	\$1,050 to \$1,070 do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1,100 to \$1,120 do.
Persian fine quality	\$890 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$900 to — do.
Patna New	\$1,260 to — per chest.
Patna Old	— to — do.
Benares New	\$1,247 to — do.
Benares Old	— to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th Feby.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 ")	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 "),	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 "	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 18 lbs.	1.75 to 4.00
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Broc des—Dyed — to —

DAMASKS—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.91 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.47 1/2
Velveteens—18 in.	0.25 to 0.26

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 9.35 to 3.50

WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.77 1/2 to 2.25
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.50

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.95 to 9.30
Assorted	7.10 to 9.15
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	12.50 to 22.50
Assorted	— to —
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —

	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.80
Fine quality	1.25 to 1.85

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar	4.30 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Poop 2 to 11 1/2 in.	6.40 to —
Wire, 16 25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —

METALS—

	per picul
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.30 to —
Australian	8.30 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50 to —
Tin	77.50 to —

	per box.
Tin-Plates	7.00 to —

	per cwt. cases
Steel 1 to 2	3.30 to —
Quicksilver	160.00 to —

	per box
Window Glass	4.25 to —

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 25th February, states:—Since the date of our last Report the Native New Year holidays intervened and suspended trade entirely for a week. The annual settlement of accounts appears to have been satisfactorily arranged in almost all branches of business, the only one that suffered at all heavily being Silk. Tea did well, and also Banking, while the Piece Goods dealers managed to divide about a million and a half of taels, though perhaps not very evenly. Still, considering the very exceptionally trying times they went through during the last thirteen moons, it is a matter for congratulation that the result was so good, and will enable the trade to be carried no,

even during the depressing period at present ahead of it, with more confidence and hopefulness than would otherwise have been the case. The apprehensiveness that not unnaturally existed concerning the future course of trade, on account of the political situation has been somewhat allayed by the initial successes of the Japanese fleet, whereby interport trade will be less liable to interruption; and but for the unfortunate presence in Port of an isolated Russian gunboat intercourse with Japan by the steamers of that country could be resumed. The River trade is quite unimpeded, and although the Insurance Companies are charging as much as two per cent. for war risk on goods in Chinese steamers, and a half per cent. on English steamers for the Northern Ports it seems to be quite unnecessary. The market nominally opened on the 22nd inst. with a few of the usual complimentary purchases, but buyers appear to have found some difficulty in finding importers with available cargo who were willing to sell. However, some 1,500 packages have been booked, chiefly medium makes of Grey and White Shirtings of all weights. Buyers then stopped to see what the results of the auctions would be, and, considering Exchange was fully 5% lower when the last Yuen Fong sale took place, the prices realised this morning were distinctly satisfactory, although it must not be overlooked that the quantity was considerably reduced. The financial position, not only here but all over China, promises to be the great drawback to trade again this year. The Native Banks have been unusually late in starting business, although nominally opened, and the distribution of credits to their constituents is greatly restricted. They have found it very difficult to get in outstanding accounts and, it is said, are short fully ten lacs that should have come down from Newchwang before settling day, but unfortunately the outbreak of hostilities caused such a serious drop in Exchange there, it was impossible to remit. Tientsin is not yet out of the wood, and in spite of her seemingly growing prosperity is just as devoid of money and credit as ever, many of the old accounts carried over from 1902 being still owing to the Banks here. It is to be anticipated in consequence that business with that market will continue to be a hand to mouth one, only such goods being sent up as are required for immediate consumption, and for which cash can be paid. The prospects for trade with the Yangtze Ports are very good indeed, but for the lack of financial facilities. Shippers are ready and anxious to send goods to Corea, but there are no means of doing so at present. No doubt that will be managed when the Japanese steamers resume their running. The river Peiho is reported open unusually early, and already steamers have been despatched from here, but taking only about 5,000 bales of Yarn and Piece Goods, of which the former comprise the bulk. The Tugs and lighters were to have been undocked yesterday, and the steamers are expected to get up to the Bund this spring tide. Moderate supplies have already been going up via Ching-Wan-Tao. The Manchester market is firm at the slight reduction which has taken place there, but no orders are going through from this under present circumstances. After dropping to 6.94d. for Mid American, Cotton has since recovered to 7.40d. Egyptian has remained about steady at 9 1/2 d. The Export for this month promises to be fairly large again, it amounting to 15,000,000 yards for the two weeks ending the 19th inst. The discrepancy in the percentage between the quantity and value of Yarns is significant, and plainly shows either that manufacturers must have been supplied with raw Cotton for weaving purposes at moderate rates, or spinners of Export Yarn were able to command relatively much higher prices than the weavers. There is very little reliable news of the New York market, enquiries for quotations only evoking quite impossible prices. The trade will have to eke out what there is here already, for a fair quantity of the goods ordered in the late Autumn were resold in New York, and since the 19th October the shipments to China have only been 8,353 packages, a portion of which arrived before the close of last year. The market for Indian Yarns has been active at an advance, a fair quantity of No. 10s. being taken for Tientsin and Chefoo and the balance for the River Ports. Local spinnings are neglected

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer Socotra, sailed on 4th Feb. For London:—200 packages tea, 385 rolls mats and matting, 202 boxes tea, 36 packages black-woodware, 1 case cigars, 31 cases feathers, 5 bales waste silk, 30 cases essential oil, 5 cases personal effects. For Glasgow:—1 case cigars. For London and Hamburg:—34 bales feathers. For London, Hamburg and Antwerp:—20 cases bristles.

Per steamer *Keemun*, sailed on 20th February. For Liverpool:—3,575 bales hemp. For Marseilles:—100 bales hemp, 63 bales galangal, 150 cases aniseed, 112 bales human hair, 100 cases essential oil. For Marseilles and Havre:—115 rolls mats, 10 bales canes, 50 cases aniseed, 20 cases essential oil. For Havre:—40 bales canes. For Genoa:—239 bales canes. For Various ports:—10 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Chusan* sailed on 27th Feb. For London:—150 rolls matting, 66 bales canes, 3 cases china ink, 7 cases merchandise. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—4 cases cigars, 1 case silk. For Marseilles:—10 bales raw silk, 40 bales split bamboo.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG 4th March, 1904.—Our market continues dull, and very little business has been transacted during the past week. An improvement however has to be recorded in Indo Chinas and China Sugars, which are in demand at quotations which show an advance on rates last quoted.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue weak, and after small local sales at \$612 are now on the market at \$610. London is unchanged at £59. Nationals are unaltered at \$34 buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are easier with sellers at \$485. China Traders after sales at \$54 can be placed to a small extent at \$55. Cantons have sold and more shares are obtainable at \$175.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs can be placed at \$300, sellers holding for \$305. Chinas are still on offer at \$90.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue out of favour, and shares are now offering at \$2½. Indo-Chinas have strengthened, and after sales at \$82 to \$84 are in further demand at the latter rate. As we close a sale at \$85 is reported, and it is probable that further buyers could be found at this figure. China and Manilas and Douglases are both lower at \$23 and \$33 sellers respectively. Shells have been booked at 18s. 9d., and close with sellers at 19s. 0d. Star Ferries are unchanged at \$30 and \$18½ sellers for the old and new issues respectively.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have sold at \$107 and \$108, and close with strong buyers at \$107. Luzons continue out of favour at \$10.

MINING.—Ranbs show a slight improvement, and after sales at \$6 and \$6½ can now be placed at \$6½. Charbonnages have declined, and a small parcel is said to be obtainable at \$500.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue in request and can now be disposed of at \$202. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are firm with sales and further buyers at \$95. New Amoy Docks are unchanged at \$37½ sellers. Farnhams have improved to Tls. 138 at which there is said to be buyers in the North.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$148. Kowloon Lands and West Points continue on offer at quotations. Hongkong Hotels have receded to \$144 sellers. Humphrey's Estates, after a small sale at \$10, have been booked extensively at \$104, and further shares are in request at the higher rate. Shanghai Lands after advancing to Tls. 111 ex dividend in the North are down to Tls. 109 with probable sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—No business reported.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos are firmer with buyers at \$8½. It is said that a good report for the first year's working of this company will be presented at the first yearly meeting of shareholders advertised for the 19th instant. Ropes are still higher with a small sale reported at \$150. Ires are easier with sellers at \$27. China Providents have been booked at \$8.80 and continue on offer at that figure. Watkins are procurable at \$7½.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 5th March. China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 14th March. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th March. G. O. Fenwick & Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 9th March. China Borneo Co., Ltd. first ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th March, transfer books close from the 5th to 19th instant inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$610, sellers) (£59, buyers)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£28	\$34, buyers
B. Shares	£28	\$34, buyers
Found. Shares	£21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$485, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$55, sellers
North China	£5	Tls. 67.
Yangtze	\$60	\$135.
Canton	\$50	\$175, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$27½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$84, buyers
China and Manila	\$50	\$23, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	\$18½, sellers
Do. pref. shares	£10	£10, nominal
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$107, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	£250	\$500, sellers
Ranbs	18, 10d.	\$6½, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$202, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$95.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37½, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 103	Tls. 138.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$148, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$54, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$144, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 109.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25.
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24½, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$84, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$144, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$5	\$7, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$51.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$227, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300.
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	(\$15½, sellers)
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12½.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$49, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9.
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$8.80, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7½, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5.
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Canton, Hongkong Ice & Cold Storage Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$200.
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Report dated 26th February, state:—Our Circular for last week was unissued, as the Chinese New Year holidays took place, and the Stock Exchange was closed for the week. Business was resumed on Monday last. An improvement in our money market and a rally in rates was looked for as soon as Chinese New Year was over, but neither hope has been realised, and we remain as before, quiet and depressed, and we cannot see any prospect for improvement for some time to come. We have with much regret to record the death of Mr. Geo. McBain, the General Agent and Chairman of the Langkat Company, which took place on Saturday, the 13th instant. Banks.—No business in bank shares.

The Hongkong rate is \$635 and the last London quotation is £61. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/7½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Nothing reported under this heading during the interval. Shipping.—Indos. Sales have taken place at Tls. 58 cash and 58½ for March, and 59 for April, closing steady. Shell Transports. Business has been done to-day at £1 stg. Shanghai Tugs. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 46 for pref. and 48 for ord. shares. Docks and Wharves.—Farnham, Boyds. There has been a considerable business done in this stock and the cash rate steadily improved from Tls. 135 to 140 on the 23rd instant, since then a weaker tendency prevails and we quote the present cash rate at 135/136. March Tls. 137½ and April 138, business done to-day. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks remain at \$206 buyers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. There have been buyers in the market, and the rate has improved from Tls. 202½ to 207½ with buyers, and for March at 210 with some small demand. Sugars.—There has been a sale of Perak Sugars at \$50 cash. Mining.—Kaipings have been placed at Tls. 6 for ord. scrip. Weihaiwei Golds. A small lot changed hands at \$15. Shanghai Land Investment Co.—The account for 1903 is a most satisfactory one, and it was proposed to pay a 6 per cent. dividend (final) with a bonus of Tls. 2 per share; to place Tls. 150,000 to reserve fund special account, and to bring up the reserve fund all together to Tls. 800,000, carrying forward Tls. 37,634.66. Lands.—Shanghai. A final dividend of 6 per cent with a bonus of Tls. 2 per share was paid yesterday, and business was the result this week at Tls. 115 cum div. and Tls. 110 ex. div. Industrial.—Cotton Shares. No business reported. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares have again been placed at Tls. 122½. Shanghai Ice at Tls. 15. Langkats. On the distressing news of Mr. McBain's death, our market was somewhat upset and Tls. 292½ cash and 300 for March were done on the 15th inst. In the interval the Co. has declared a first interim div. for 1904 of Tls. 10, payable on the 15th prox. Since then we learn that satisfactory arrangements are being made to carry on the Agency under the same name, and a better feeling has been manifested. Our closing rates are Tls. 302½ cash, 307½ March and 322 June with slight fluctuations on these rates. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz shares are quoted at \$30 sellers. Moutries have been placed at Tls. 55. Weeks & Co. at \$20/21. Astor Houses are enquired for at \$26. Miscellaneous.—Nothing reported under this heading. Loans.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 7th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	235
ON GERMANY.—	
Credits 4 months' sight	239½
On demand	191½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138½
Bank, on demand	139
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138½
Bank, on demand	139
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight	71½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	92
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	112½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.65
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	56½
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26½

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

February—

26, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 26, Esang, British str., from Canton.
 26, Fiume, German str., from Cardiff.
 26, Ha-loong, British str., from Swatow.
 26, Hopsang, British str., from Moji.
 26, Karl Ella, German str., from Yap.
 26, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 26, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 26, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.
 26, Quarta, German str., from Sourabaya.
 26, Shausi, British str., from Canton.
 26, Seestern, German yacht, from New Guinea.
 26, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 27, Braemar, British str., from New York.
 27, Chibbi, British str., from Manila.
 27, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
 27, Cheltenham, British str., from Rangoon.
 27, K. Elisabeth, Austrian cr., from Batavia.
 28, Anna, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
 28, Babelsberg, German str., from Saigon.
 28, Chenan, British str., from Canton.
 28, Chunsang, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 28, Glenlogan, British str., from London.
 28, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 28, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 28, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 28, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 28, Wuchang, British str., from Cebu.
 29, Apenrade, German str., from Manila.
 29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 29, Elba, Italian cruiser, from Chemulpo.
 29, Patria, British str., from New York.
 29, Fausang, British str., from Saigon.
 29, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 29, Heinrich Menzell, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
 29, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
 29, Independent, German str., from Saigon.
 29, Indrawadi, British str., from New York.
 29, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 29, Lugano, German str., from Moji.
 29, Macduff, British str., from Shanghai.
 29, Menelaus, British str., from Liverpool.
 29, Nanyang, German str., from Moji.
 29, Peleus, British str., from Victoria.
 29, Ras Bera, British str., from Moji.
 29, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 29, Sithonia, German str., from Shanghai.
 29, Tingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 29, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.

March—

1, Din, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
 1, Glenfallach, British str., from Straits.
 1, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 1, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Moyune, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Seydlitz, German str., from Yokohama.
 1, Sullberg, German str., from Chinkiang.
 1, Taicheng, German str., from Saigon.
 1, Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
 1, Brunhilde, German str., from Palembang.
 2, Changsha, British str., from Yokohama.
 2, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Shanghai.
 2, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 2, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 2, Michael Jepsen, German str., from Pakhoi.
 2, Rhipheus, British str., from Singapore.
 2, St. Nicholas, British str., from Cardiff.
 2, Socotra, British str., from Yokohama.
 2, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
 3, Amphitrite, British cr., from Mirs Bay.
 3, Anamba, Danish str., from Bangkok.
 3, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
 3, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 3, Kunpung, Chinese str., from Canton.
 3, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 3, Machaon, British str., from Liverpool.
 3, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
 3, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
 3, Orid, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 3, Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
 3, Saming, British str., from Cardiff.
 3, Wongzoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 4, Algon Bay, British barque, from Hongay.
 4, Edendale, British str., from Sourabaya.
 4, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 4, Konigsberg, German str., from Tsintau.
 4, Leviathan, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 4, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Manila.

4, Taksang, British str., from Hongay.
 4, Tremont, Amer. str., from Seattle.
 4, Victoria, American str., from Tacoma.

DEPARTURES.

26, Amphitrite, British cr., for Mirs Bay.
 26, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 26, Chingwo, British str., for Portland.
 26, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, M. S. Dollar, British str., for Calcutta.
 26, Tacoma, Amer. str., for Tacoma.
 26, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 26, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
 26, Wosang, British str., for Chinkiang.
 26, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Amigo, German str., for Kobe.
 27, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
 27, Hauoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 27, Kalgan, British str., for Ningpo.
 27, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 27, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 27, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Taksang, British str., for Hongay.
 27, Thea, German str., for Tsintau.
 27, Wosang, British str., for Chinkiang.
 27, Zefiro, British str., for Manila.
 28, Cheltenham, British str., for Yokohama.
 28, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Esang, British str., for Tientsin.
 28, Nankin, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Phra C. C. Kiao, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 28, Shantung, German str., for Kobe.
 28, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Win sang, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Centurion, British ship, for Mirs Bay.
 29, Cressy, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 29, Fearless, British gunboat, for Weihaiwei.
 29, Hailoo g, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Kaiserin Elisabeth, Aust. cr., for Chefoo.
 29, Ocean, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.

March—

1, Auerley, Brit. str., for Ocean Island (S.P.).
 1, An Pho, British str., for Saigon.
 1, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 1, Chibbi, British str., for Tientsin.
 1, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Emma Luyken, German str., for Saigon.
 1, Germania, German str., for Saigon.
 1, Gregory Arcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 1, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 1, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 1, Indrawadi, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Leviathan, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 1, Leemcon, German str., for Shanghai.
 1, Marie Jepsen, Ger. str., for Sourabaya.
 1, Menelaus, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Prima, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 1, Shensi, British str., for Cebu.
 1, Sithonia, German str., for Hamburg.
 1, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Tingsang, British str., for Canton.
 2, Apenrade, German str., for Pakhoi.
 2, Chenan, British str., for Manila.
 2, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 2, Glenfallach, British str., for Amoy.
 2, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 2, Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
 2, Macduff, British str., for New York.
 2, Moyune, British str., for London.
 2, Queen Mary, British str., for Saigon.
 2, Rugby, British str., for Anping.
 2, Seydlitz, German str., for Europe.
 2, Shantung, British str., for Singapore.
 2, Taishan, British str., for Hongay.
 2, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 2, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 3, Anna, Norwegian str., for Quinhon.
 3, Glenlogan, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Hopsang, British str., for Saigon.
 3, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 3, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 3, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
 3, Rhipheus, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 4, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
 4, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 4, Hein. Menzell, Ger. str., for Tsintau.
 4, Hingsang, British str., for Kobe.
 4, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 4, M. Struve, German str., for Tamsui.
 4, Scotia, British str., for San Francisco.
 4, Socotra, British str., for London.
 4, Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Wuchang, British str., for Iloilo.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lee, Consul Post, Capt. R. E. K. Donajowski, Messrs. A. H. Jervis, W. K. Samoyloff, H. T. Thomas, A. E. Blanco, W. T. Mitchell, G. G. Perfect, F. Taylor, P. Jones, A. J. Rousseau, and F. Hubbe; for Bombay, Mr. Ali Harkim; for Port Said, Rev. W. C. Longdon; for Marseilles, Mrs. Reilly, Dr. F. H. Taylor, Messrs. W. E. Hunt, R. Roosen, and H. H. Taylor; from London, Messrs. C. B. Conley and T. I. Lawrence, Misses B. Deane and Cooke; from Yokohama, for London, Midshipman Brotherton.

Per *Seydlitz*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mrs. Haber, Misses Cumins and R. Serper, Lieut. V. de Paris, Capt. Groves, Messrs. B. Kristina, Otto Koch, Joh. Pritzkow, W. Eller, E. von Schultz, Olaf Thorsen, Donkin, U. L. Joshi, C. M. Joshi, W. L. Thomsen, T. Parsons, L. Samuel, Abraham, K. Wiedemann, A. W. Dick, Johansen, and Frost; from Kobe, Mr. J. M. Nanparia; from Nagasaki, Mr. Chatelier.

Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Messrs. E. C. Lewis, J. M. Ramsay, Harvie, and A. C. Chapman, and Miss Black; from Genoa, Mrs. Krueger and children, and Mr. A. Armstrong; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Reichelt, Capt. Schumacher, Rev. F. S. Hatch, Misses E. and M. Mayer, Messrs. C. Tach, Ricca, Taber, Gust. Kenna, and J. G. Knietzsche; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Austin, Mrs. Merrill, Miss T. J. Prunks, and Mr. Jul. Gustorf; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Laidlow, Mr. and Mrs. H. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. v. Gutzendach, Mr. and Mrs. Pennett, Mrs. T. Daumenberg and two children, Dr. S. G. Gomes, Miss R. Franks, Messrs. Stubeurauch, A. M. Scott, E. Greenauer, T. Dannerberg, C. Mayer, R. C. Robbius, P. Lucisner, C. Friedrichs, and F. Schlatt.

DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mrs. Valpe, Messrs. W. Drew Braidwood and Hunter and son; for Colombo, Mr. E. L. ftus, for Bombay, Messrs. H. H. Alarkha and A. C. Abdoola; for Brindisi, Messrs. Rozein and Samoyloff; for Marseilles, Misses Lailler and Ross; for London, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Leigh and two children, Mrs. Lockhart, Miss Lovell, Fleet Paymaster Edw. H. Banks, Lieuts. J. P. Irwin, M. McG. Lockhart, and F. G. Hingley, R.N., Surgeon J. D. S. Midar, Ch. Guir, W. T. Oveuden, Sig. Basu, T. Graham, Messrs. W. Urganhart and W. C. D. Turner; from Shanghai, for Bombay, Mr. Ali Hashim; for Port Said, Rev. W. C. Longdon; for Marseilles, Mrs. Reilly, Dr. J. H. Taylor, Messrs. W. E. Hunt, R. Roosen, and H. H. Taylor; for London, Messrs. C. B. Conley and Lawrence, Misses B. Deane and Cooke; from Yokohama, for London, Midshipman Brotherton, M.C.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, from London, Sir F. Treves, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. King, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Abbott and child, Mrs. French and child, Comdr. Harbord, R.N., Fleet Surg. Jenins, R.N., Messrs. J. C. Coles and W. F. May; from Marseilles, Lady Treves, Major and Mrs. Herepath, Mrs. Radcliff, Dr. and Mrs. Sealiff, Mrs. Layton, Mrs. Cockrill, Mrs. Melvin, Col. W. King Badley, Capt. F. G. Kirby, R.N., Messrs. R. e. Nicholson, and F. D. Pengelly; from Brindisi, Mr. F. C. Meseroe; from Malta, Rev. J. B. Bourne; from Colombo, Mrs. and Miss McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, Messrs. W. R. Tucker and W. Moller; from Penang, Messrs. H. Schmidt and G. de Angeli; from Singapore, Messrs. Max Schlaser, Y. Kawaoki, M. Yatsuno, G. G. Gadsen, H. Tamirke, H. T. Strum, H. H. Hallen, and Roza; for Manila, from London, Mr. J. Reid; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. D. MacGregor, Lieut. J. N. Clark, Misses E. Lea, Laud, and E. M. Cook; from Bombay, Mr. A. B. Vania; from Colombo, Messrs. H. V. Dorsey, H. Kingswell, and H. Fleming; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Weir; from Singapore, Mr. Koyhevar; for Yokohama, from Colombo, Capt. A. Hartmann and Mr. F. L. Smith; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mrs. Abell.

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